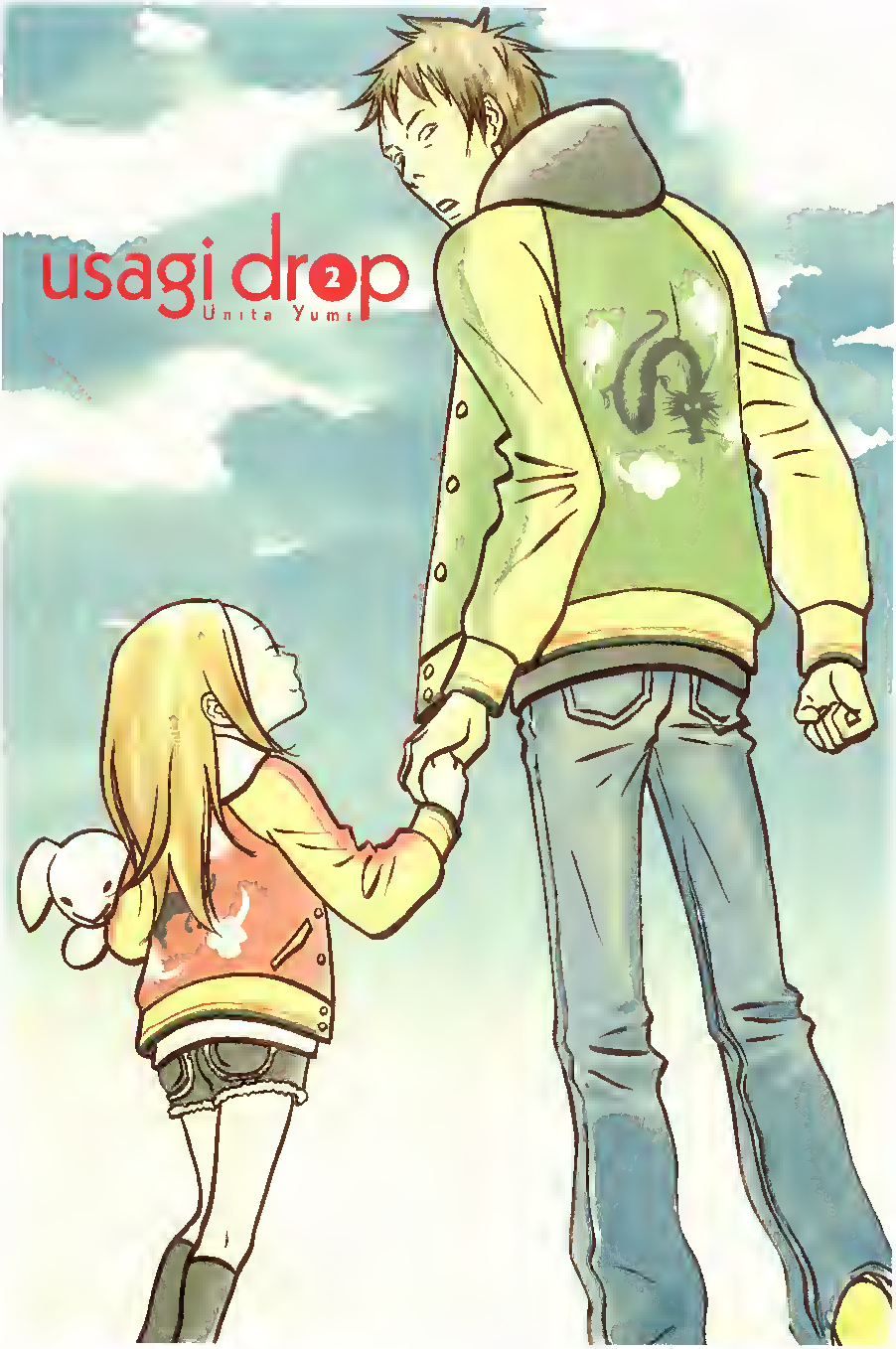

usagi drop 2
Unita Yumi

Character Introductions

Gotou-san
Daikichi's hardworking senpai, she is a working mother. Daikichi often consults with her.

Kouki & Kouki's mama
Rin's friend from nursery, and his mother.

Kawachi Daikichi
30 years old, single. He is not very good with women or children.

Kaga Rin
A resolute 6 year old girl. Actually Daikichi's aunt.

STORY

Kawachi Daikichi has taken in the young girl Rin who suddenly appeared at his grandfather's funeral, and is raising her. Without help from family or relatives, he is experiencing the unfamiliar daily events of raising a child. Now, in order to try to find some clues about Rin's mother, Daikichi has broken into his grandfather's home. However...

contents

episode.7
005

episode.8
037

episode.9
071

episode.10
103

episode.11
136

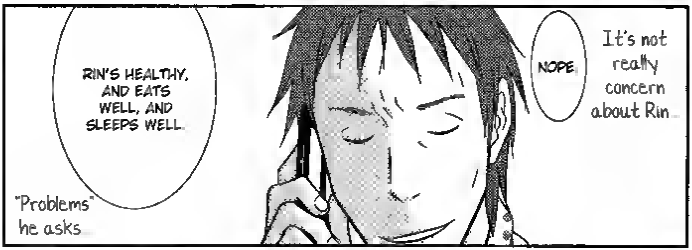
episode.12
171

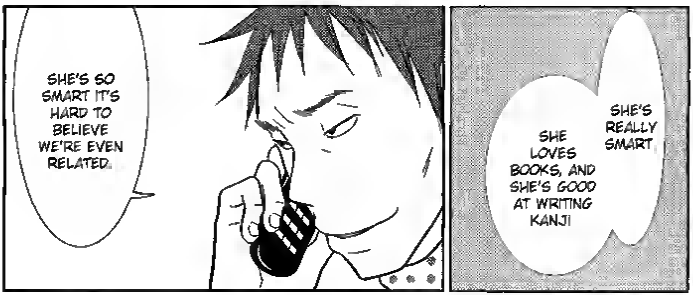
usagi drop
episode.7

A Back Scratcher
A Japanese Dresser
A Grandfather Clock
A Modem
Do you know which?
There is one that does not belong among these.
Hint
An item you usually wouldn't find at an old man's house.

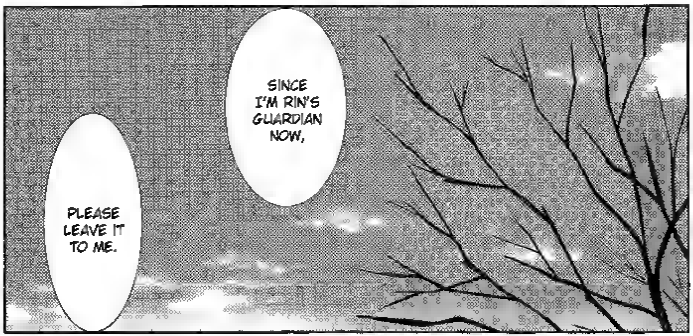
usually there shouldn't be a modem right?
In a room without a computer,
The modem!
Th..the modem!
Definitely the modem!
LIKE A COMPUTER FOR EXAMPLE?
AH, I GUESS NOT OKAY
YEAH
I'M AT GRAMPS' HOUSE NOW I WAS JUST WONDERING IF YOU'VE TAKEN ANY STUFF FROM HERE YET?
HELLO, UNCLE?
YEAH, IT'S DAIKICHI
YEAH
Dai-kichi
THANKS
I WAS JUST WONDERING
NAH

How is that child doing?
Have there been any problems?

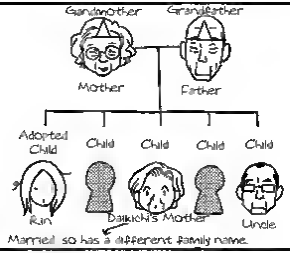

It's not really concern about Rin.
NOPE.
RIN'S HEALTHY, AND EATS WELL, AND SLEEPS WELL.
"Problems" he asks.


SHE'S REALLY SMART.
SHE LOVES BOOKS, AND SHE'S GOOD AT WRITING KANJI
SHE'S SO SMART IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE WE'RE EVEN RELATED.

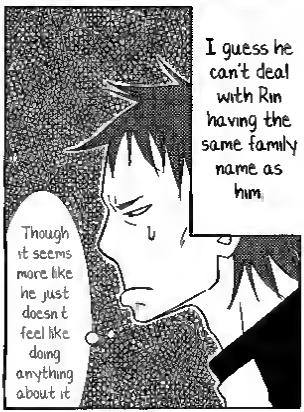
He's got some nerve.
Well, don't push yourself.
I probably wouldn't have gotten so annoyed.
If uncle had just asked "Is Rin doing well?",
I see.
If something happens...
I...
KIDS THESE DAYS CAN BE TOUGH TO CARE FOR PROPERLY
I SEE.
I'LL THINK OF A WAY TO MANAGE RIN MYSELF



So she has the same family name as gramps In other words, the same as uncle as well



It was decided Rin would be listed as grandpa's adopted child in the family registry.



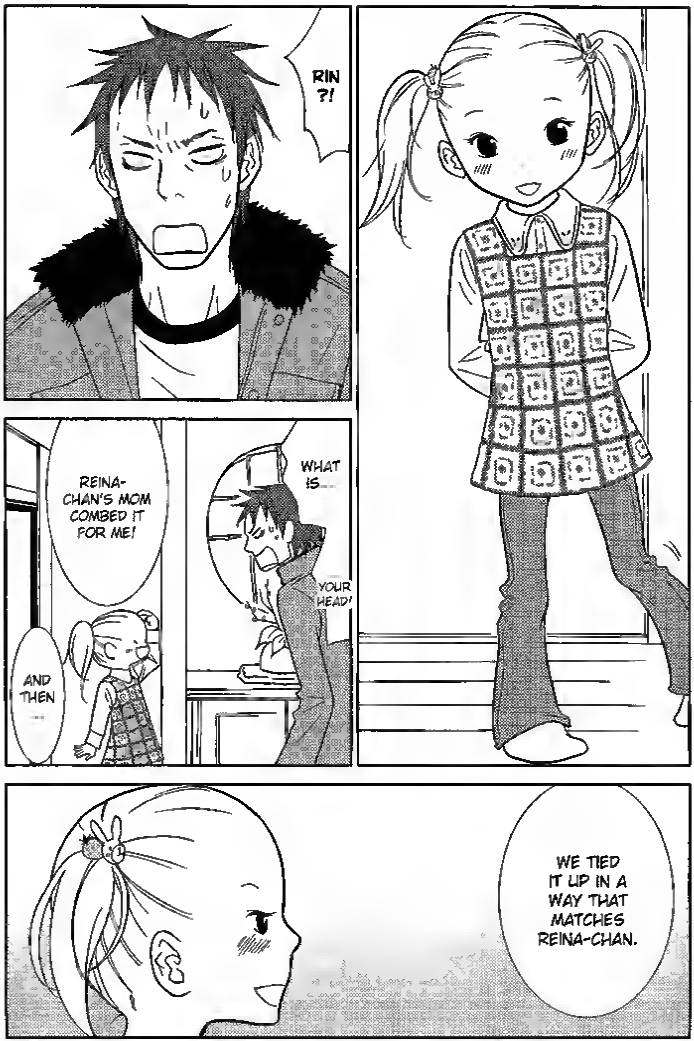
I guess he can't deal with Rin having the same family name as him

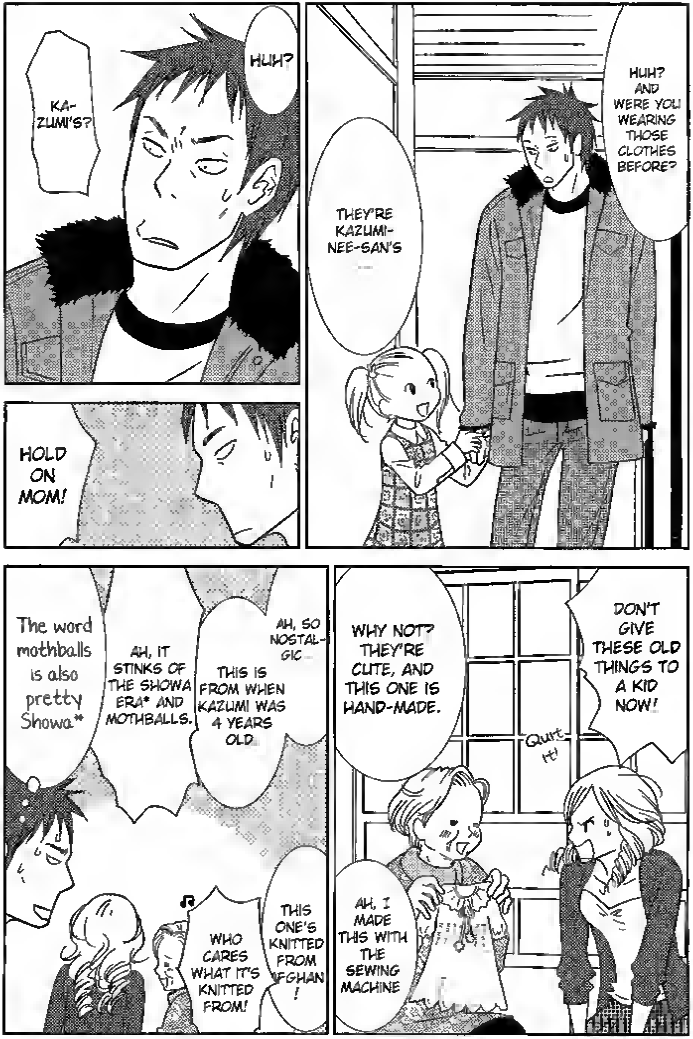
he's the oldest male in the family, so he must at least feel some responsibility

So from uncle's perspective,

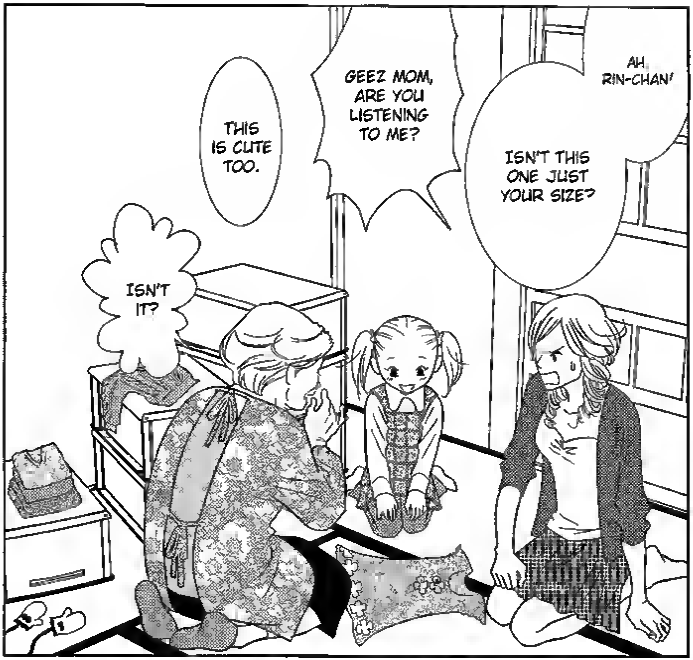
Kind of a lackluster result...
Rin's waiting.
I'll go back...
309
309

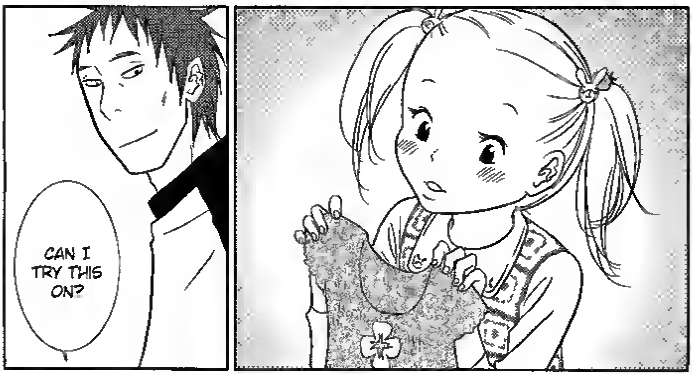
I'M BACK.
DOOR OPENING
ARE YOU THERE, RIN?
Are you ok?
TAP TAP


RIN ?!
REINA-CHAN'S MOM COMBED IT FOR ME!
AND THEN ...
WHAT IS...
YOUR HEAD!
WE TIED IT UP IN A WAY THAT MATCHES REINA-CHAN.

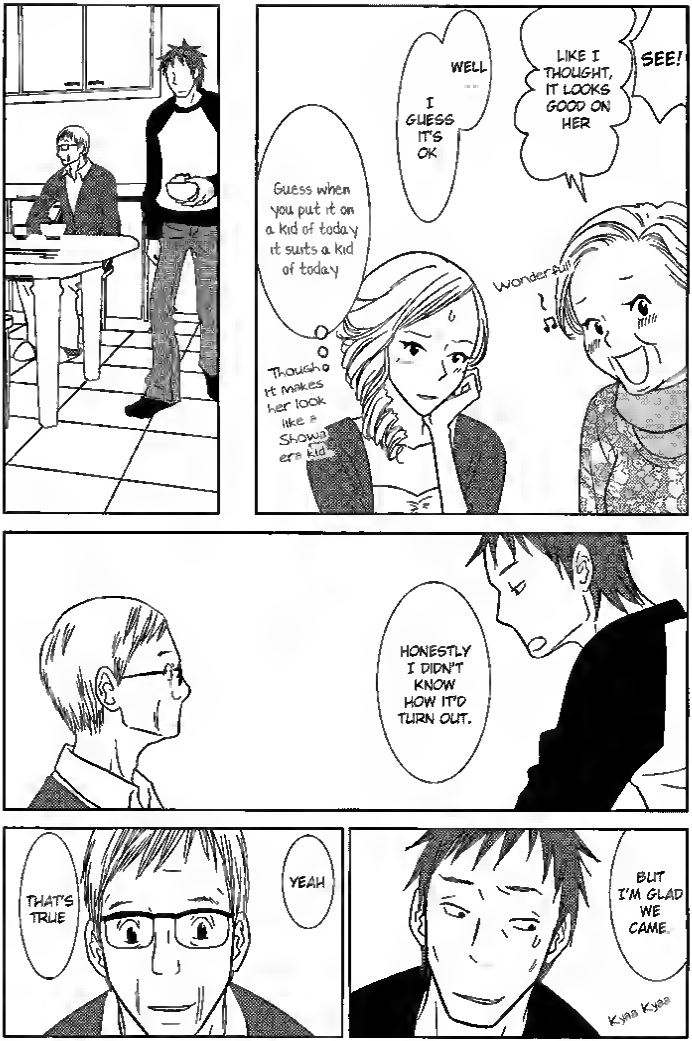

HUH?
KA-ZUMI'S?
HUH? AND WERE YOU WEARING THOSE CLOTHES BEFORE?
THEY'RE KAZUMI-NEE-SAN'S
HOLD ON MOM!
DON'T GIVE THESE OLD THINGS TO A KID NOW!
WHY NOT? THEY'RE CUTE, AND THIS ONE IS HAND-MADE.
Quiet-ly!
AH, I MADE THIS WITH THE SEWING MACHINE
AH, SO NOSTAL-GIC...
THIS IS FROM WHEN KAZUMI WAS 4 YEARS OLD.
AH, IT STINKS OF THE SHOWA ERA* AND MOTHBALLS.
The word mothballs is also pretty Showa**
THIS ONE'S KNITTED FROM AFGHAN!
WHO CARES WHAT IT'S KNITTED FROM!

*T/N: This is a bit complicated - the Showa era was from the end of 1926 to the start of 1989 (the Japanese calendar is measured in 62 year eras) The word Kazumi uses for mothballs (Shounou) is a kind of old fashioned word that isn't used much anymore


AH, RIN-CHAN!
ISN'T THIS ONE JUST YOUR SIZE?
GEEZ MOM, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
THIS IS CUTE TOO.
ISN'T IT?


CAN I TRY THIS ON?

and looked very lonely
Up to now, compared with other kids she's had some pretty harsh circumstances, but
The Rin I met on that day
was always by herself,
It seems the number of people she can trust has grown.
She's become a bit more easygoing.

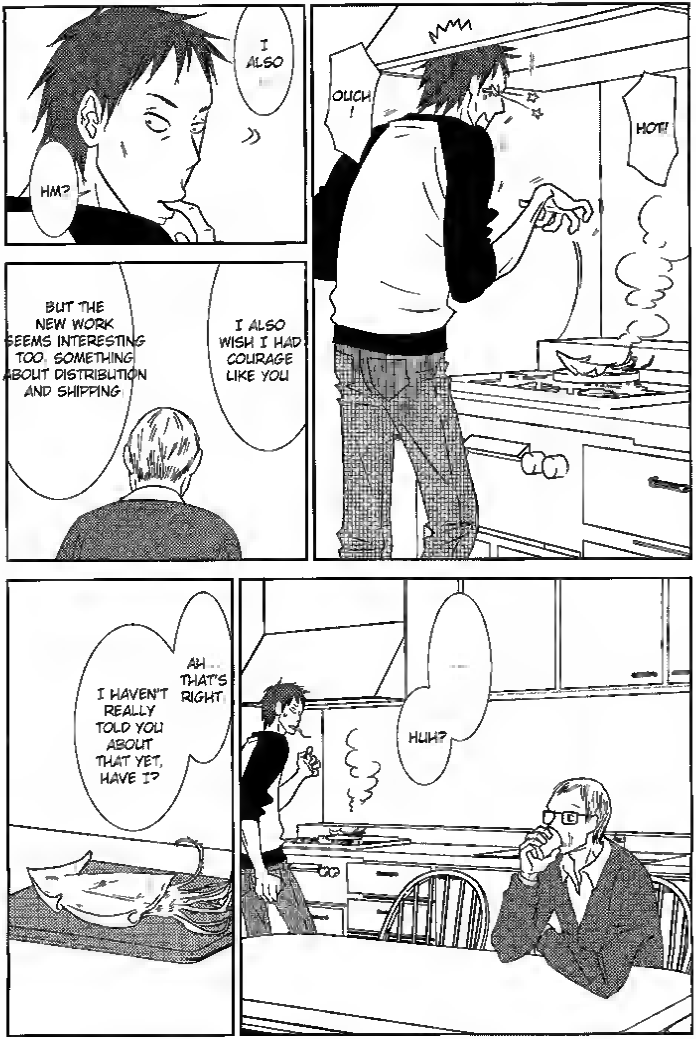

Guess when you put it on a kid of today it suits a kid of today
Though it makes her look like a Showa era kid
WELL
I GUESS IT'S OK
LIKE I THOUGHT, IT LOOKS GOOD ON HER
SEE!
Wonderful
HONESTLY I DIDN'T KNOW HOW IT'D TURN OUT.
THAT'S TRUE
YEAH
BUT I'M GLAD WE CAME.
Kyaa Kyaa

HMMM
HOW WAS GRAMPS' HOUSE?
IT WAS A BIT ODD.
IT WAS KINDA DISTURBING THAT THERE WAS NOTHING OF RIN'S THERE AT ALL
RIN ALSO SAID SHE DOESN'T KNOW HER OWN MOTHER.
AND THERE'S NO REMAINS OF RIN AT ALL AT GRAMPS' HOUSE

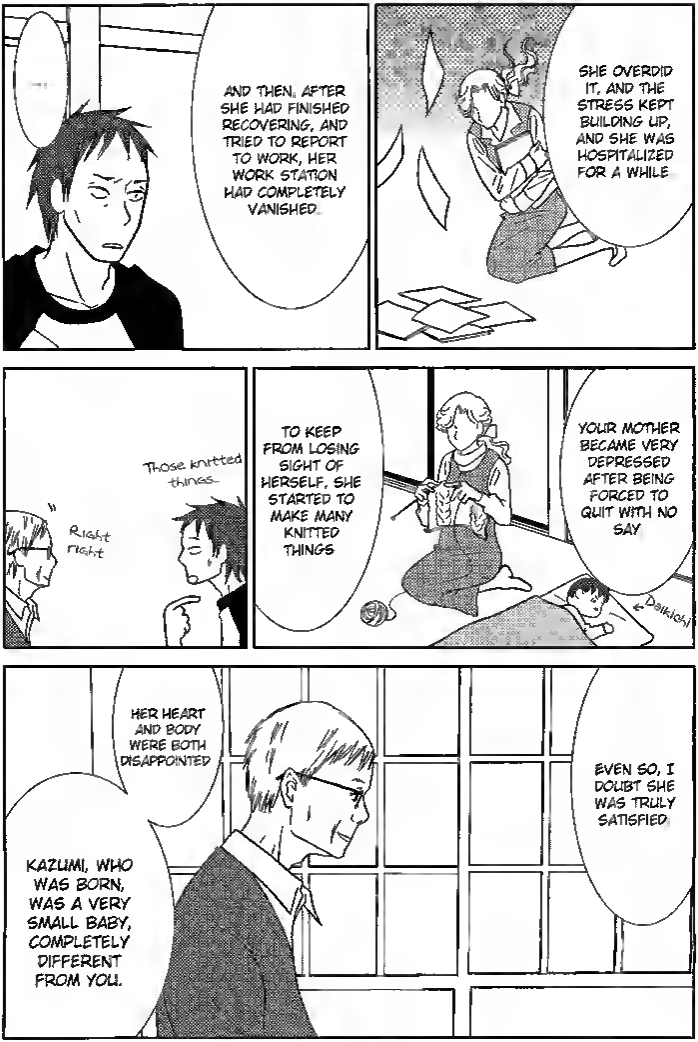
SO, JUST WHERE HAS SHE BEEN LIVING UP TILL NOW?
LET'S SEE
WELL, IT'S A BIT OF A STRANGE STORY.
WE DIDN'T REALLY GET TO SEE GRAMPS MUCH EITHER,
BUT WE WENT TO SEE HIM MAYBE ONCE A MONTH
AT THOSE TIMES, THERE WAS NO SIGN OF A WOMAN, OR OF A CHILD.
THOUGH RIN CERTAINLY LIKED GRANDPA,
SO I'M NOT REALLY SURE OF THE REASON

Stand
WELL, ANYWAY,
IT'S HARD TO GET MUCH OF ANYTHING OUT OF RIN
YEAH
DAI-KICHI
YEAH ?
ARE YOU GOING TO BE CHANGING YOUR WORKPLACE BECAUSE OF RIN-CHAN?
AH
WELL
YOUR MOTHER'S WORRIED.

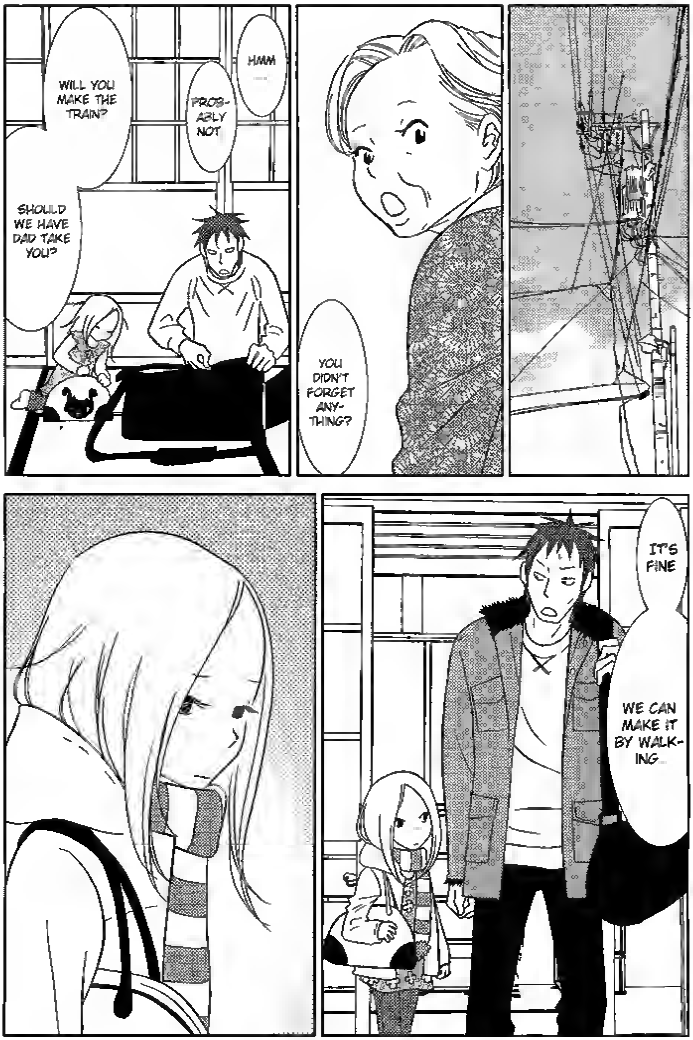
SO I'M A BIT WORRIED ABOUT MY NEXT PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT
IT WAS TROUBLESOME FOR MY OLD DEPARTMENT TOO, SINCE THEY ALWAYS HAD TO LET ME OUT EARLY TO MAKE IT ON TIME
WELL,
opening
YEAH
BUT THE NEW WORK SEEMS INTERESTING TOO. SOMETHING ABOUT DISTRIBUTION AND SHIPPING
I WAS IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF MY COMPANY, SO I DON'T REALLY KNOW ABOUT THAT... BUT YOU SURE ARE LOSING HAIR.
Quite a lot.
THAT'S PRETTY ROUGH.
AHH
EVERY MONTH AT THE MANAGER'S MEETING, THEY HAVE A GOOD TIME MAKING ALL MY HAIR FALL OUT
WANNA EAT SOME FISH?
OKAY.
What kind of magic medicine do you use to keep your hair anyway dad?
Uhuh. Well, I

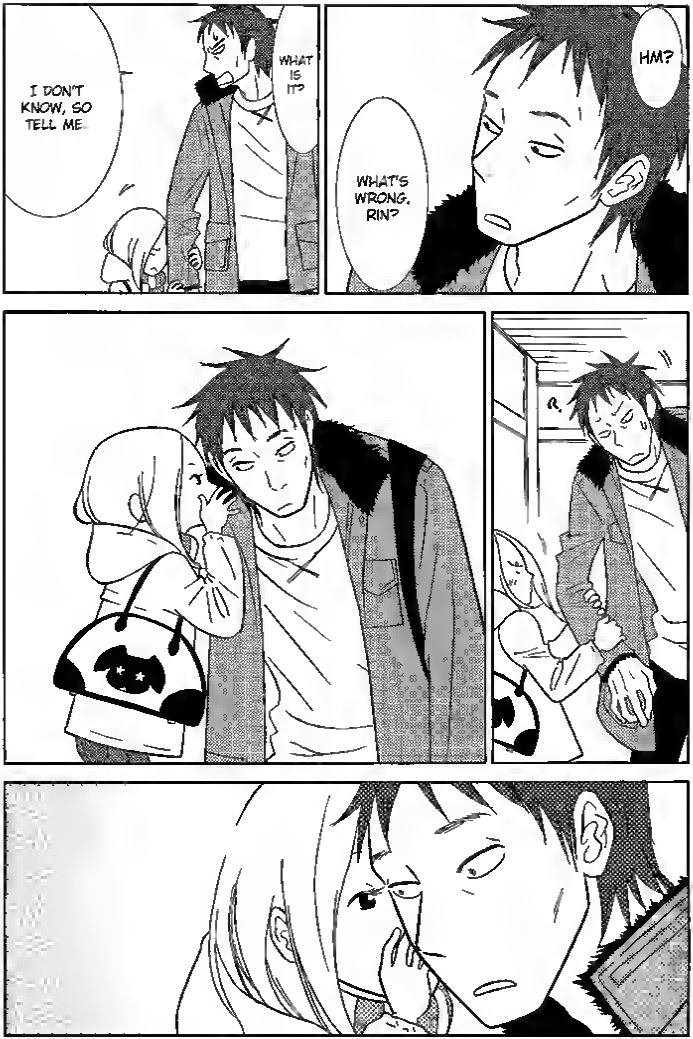

I ALSO...
HM?
OUCH!
HOT!
I ALSO WISH I HAD COURAGE LIKE YOU
BUT THE NEW WORK SEEMS INTERESTING TOO. SOMETHING ABOUT DISTRIBUTION AND SHIPPING
AH... THAT'S RIGHT.
I HAVEN'T REALLY TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT YET, HAVE I?
HUH?
OO

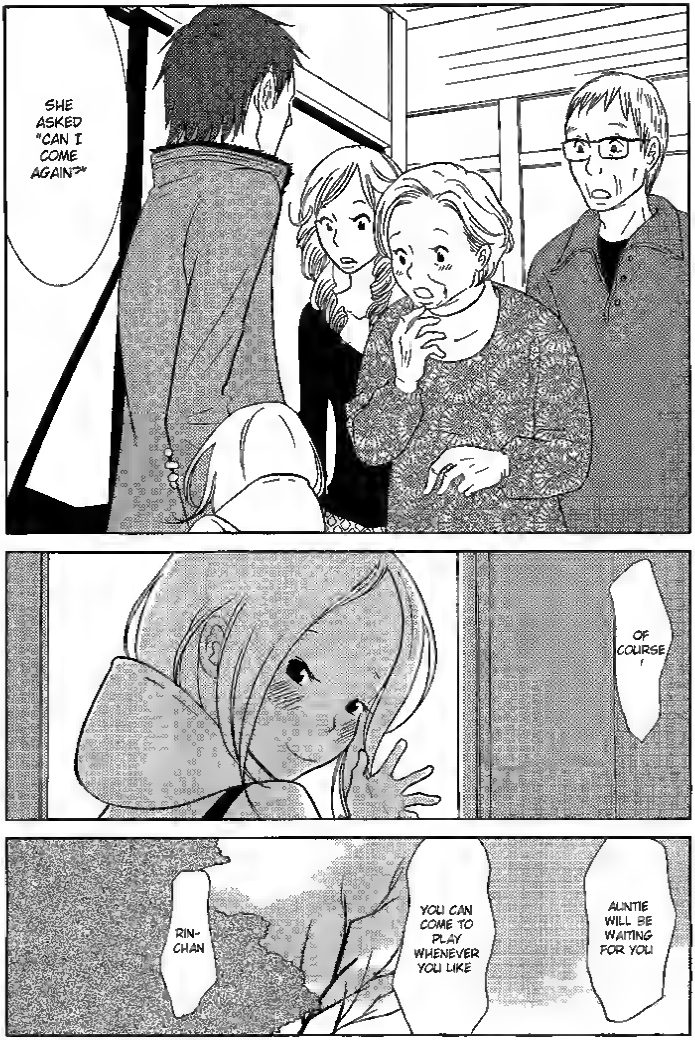
SHE WASN'T A HOUSE-WIFE?
EH?
YOUR MOTHER STARTED WORKING ALMOST RIGHT AFTER YOU WERE BORN
WELL, YOU'D HARDLY KNOW IT LOOKING AT HER NOW.
AT THAT TIME, OVERCOMING TAKING TIME OFF TO GIVE BIRTH TO RETURN TO WORK WAS VERY HARD TO DO.
SHE WAS A WOMAN WITH REAL PASSION FOR HER WORK
HOWEVER
EVEN WHEN SHE GOT PREGNANT WITH KAZUMI, YOUR MOTHER SAID SHE WANTED TO CONTINUE WORKING.
Surprising
Huh?

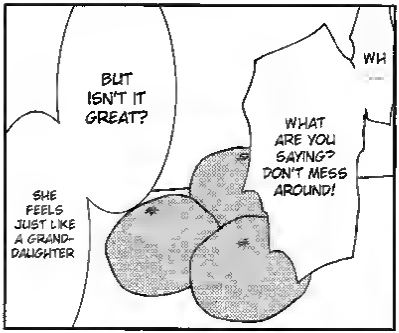

AND THEN, AFTER SHE HAD FINISHED RECOVERING, AND TRIED TO REPORT TO WORK, HER WORK STATION HAD COMPLETELY VANISHED.
SHE OVERDID IT, AND THE STRESS KEPT BUILDING UP, AND SHE WAS HOSPITALIZED FOR A WHILE.
Those knitted things...
Right right
TO KEEP FROM LOSING SIGHT OF HERSELF, SHE STARTED TO MAKE MANY KNITTED THINGS
YOUR MOTHER BECAME VERY DEPRESSED AFTER BEING FORCED TO QUIT WITH NO SAY
Daiichi
HER HEART AND BODY WERE BOTH DISAPPOINTED
KAZUMI, WHO WAS BORN, WAS A VERY SMALL BABY, COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM YOU.
EVEN SO, I DOUBT SHE WAS TRULY SATISFIED.

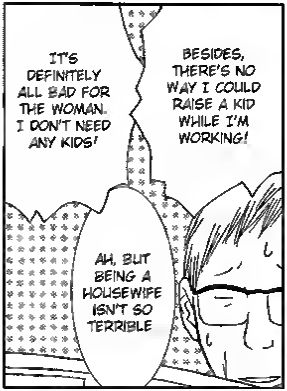
LOOKING BACK, IT WAS ALWAYS HER TO TAKE TIME OFF FROM WORK AND GO BACK FOR YOU KIDS' SAKES.
BUT YOU'RE DIFFER-ENT ..
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S JUST ME AT MY HOUSE.
AND BESIDES, IN THE PAST MEN COULD ALMOST NEVER TAKE TIME OFF FROM WORK.
AH
I GUESS THAT'S HOW SHE ENDED UP BEING SO AUDACIOUS.
NO MATTER HOW DISAP-POINTED SHE MAY HAVE BEEN, SHE GAVE PRIORITY TO RAISING KAZUMI LOVINGLY.
...
AH AFTER THAT, KAZUMI
..

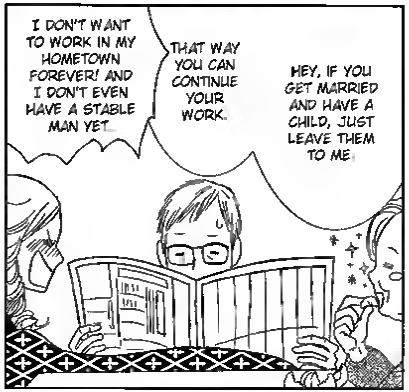

HMM...
PROBABLY NOT
WILL YOU MAKE THE TRAIN?
SHOULD WE HAVE DAD TAKE YOU?
YOU DIDN'T FORGET ANYTHING?
IT'S FINE
WE CAN MAKE IT BY WALKING


I DON'T KNOW, SO TELL ME...
WHAT IS IT?
HM?
WHAT'S WRONG, RIN?

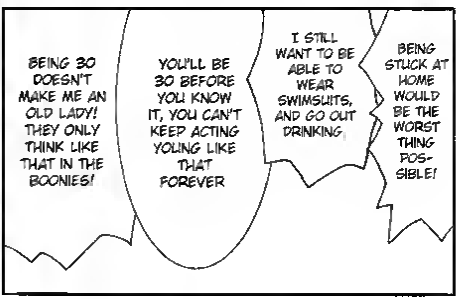

SHE ASKED "CAN I COME AGAIN?"
OF COURSE!
RIN-CHAN
YOU CAN COME TO PLAY WHENEVER YOU LIKE
AUNTIE WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU


BUT ISN'T IT GREAT?
SHE FEELS JUST LIKE A GRAND-DAUGHTER
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? DON'T MESS AROUND!
WH


IT'S DEFINITELY ALL BAD FOR THE WOMAN. I DON'T NEED ANY KIDS!
BESIDES, THERE'S NO WAY I COULD RAISE A KID WHILE I'M WORKING!
AH, BUT BEING A HOUSEWIFE ISN'T SO TERRIBLE


I DON'T WANT TO WORK IN MY HOMETOWN FOREVER! AND I DON'T EVEN HAVE A STABLE MAN YET.
THAT WAY YOU CAN CONTINUE YOUR WORK.
HEY, IF YOU GET MARRIED AND HAVE A CHILD, JUST LEAVE THEM TO ME.

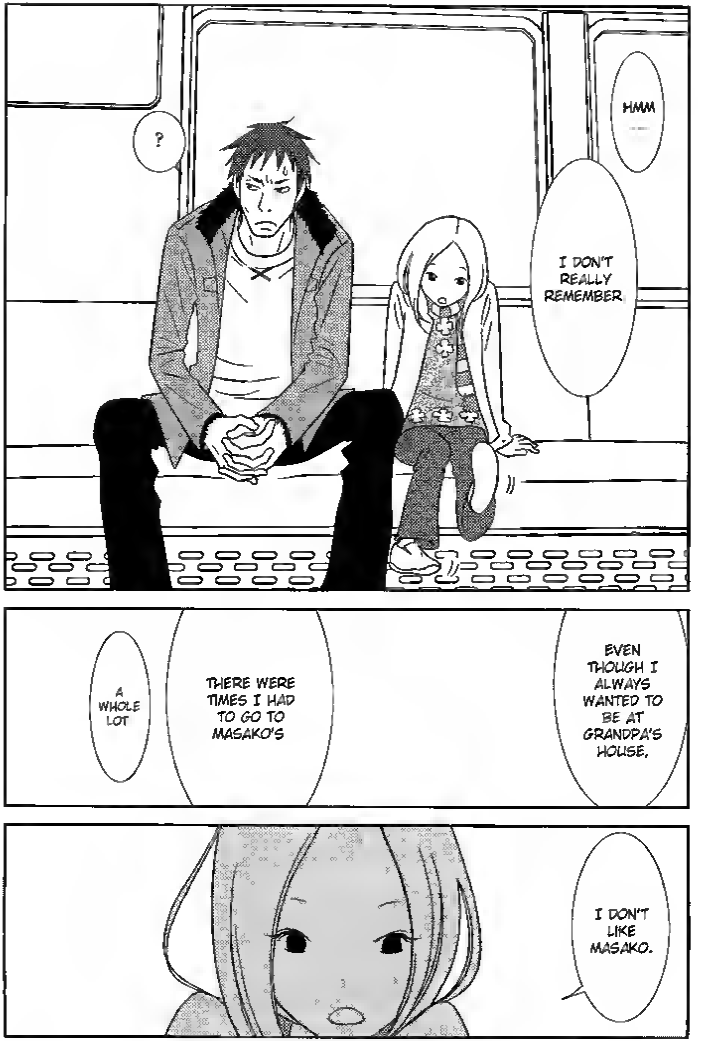
ちらっ
ハッ!


BEING 30 DOESN'T MAKE ME AN OLD LADY! THEY ONLY THINK LIKE THAT IN THE BOONIES!
YOU'LL BE 30 BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU CAN'T KEEP ACTING YOUNG LIKE THAT FOREVER
I STILL WANT TO BE ABLE TO WEAR SWIMSUITS, AND GO OUT DRINKING.
BEING STUCK AT HOME WOULD BE THE WORST THING POSSIBLE!

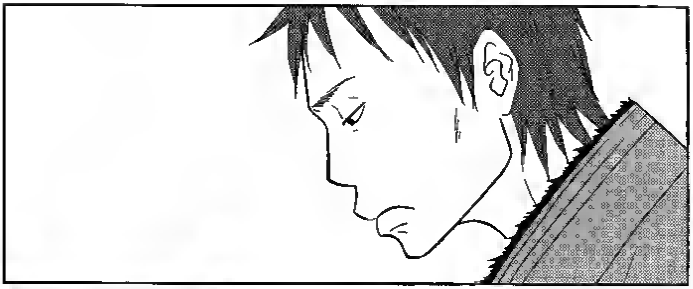
HEY, RIN.
WAS THERE A COMPUTER AT GRAMPS' HOUSE?
AH—
DO YOU KNOW WHAT A COMPUTER IS?
YEAH, I KNOW.
SINCE THERE WAS ONE AT GRANDPA'S HOUSE
Just as I thought

HE HAD A HELPER?
GRANDPA USED IT SOMETIMES
BUT IT WAS MOSTLY USED BY HIS HELPER
In that case where is it now?
WAS IT MOSTLY GRAMPS THAT USED IT?
YEAH, HER NAME WAS
MASA-KO.
Ma.

the name written on Rin's baby book
That's definitely
Talk normally!
UM. THAT PERSON WAS...
I feel like I want to scream out in a loud voice or something
Calm down. Be normal.
WHAT WAS SHE LIKE?
HOW OLD?
It's not definite but I can't look at Rin's face!

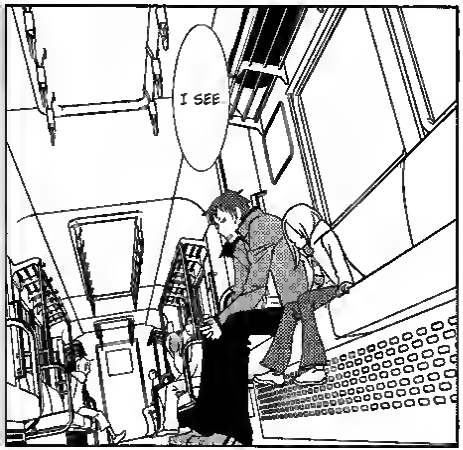

?
HMM
I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER
EVEN THOUGH I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE AT GRANDPA'S HOUSE.
THERE WERE TIMES I HAD TO GO TO MASAKO'S
A WHOLE LOT
I DON'T LIKE MASAKO.

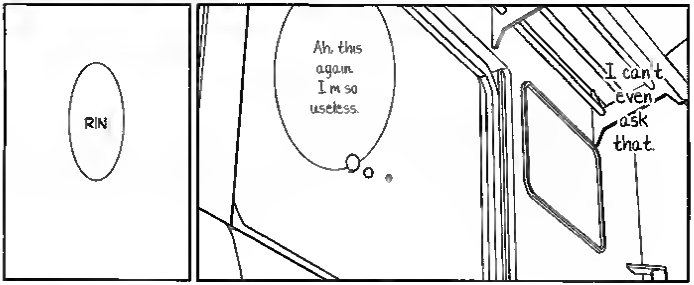
SO, I DON'T LIKE MASAKO EITHER.
BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T LIKE ME.
SHE WAS ALWAYS GETTING ANGRY...
IT WAS SCARY...
SO, THAT'S WHY
I'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT HER

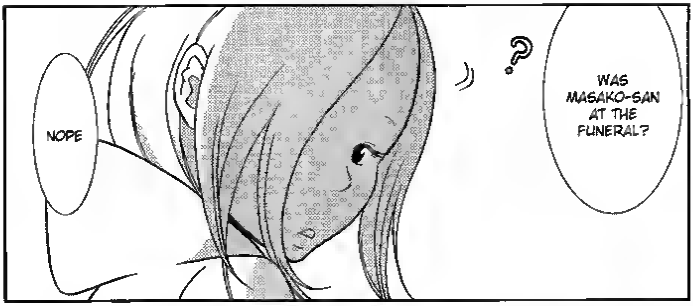


I wonder if she's really forgotten.

Or if she just decided she wants to forget






WAS MASAKO-SAN AT THE FUNERAL?
?
NOPE

Ehh what the hell?
Get out here you stupid Masako!
Show yourself!

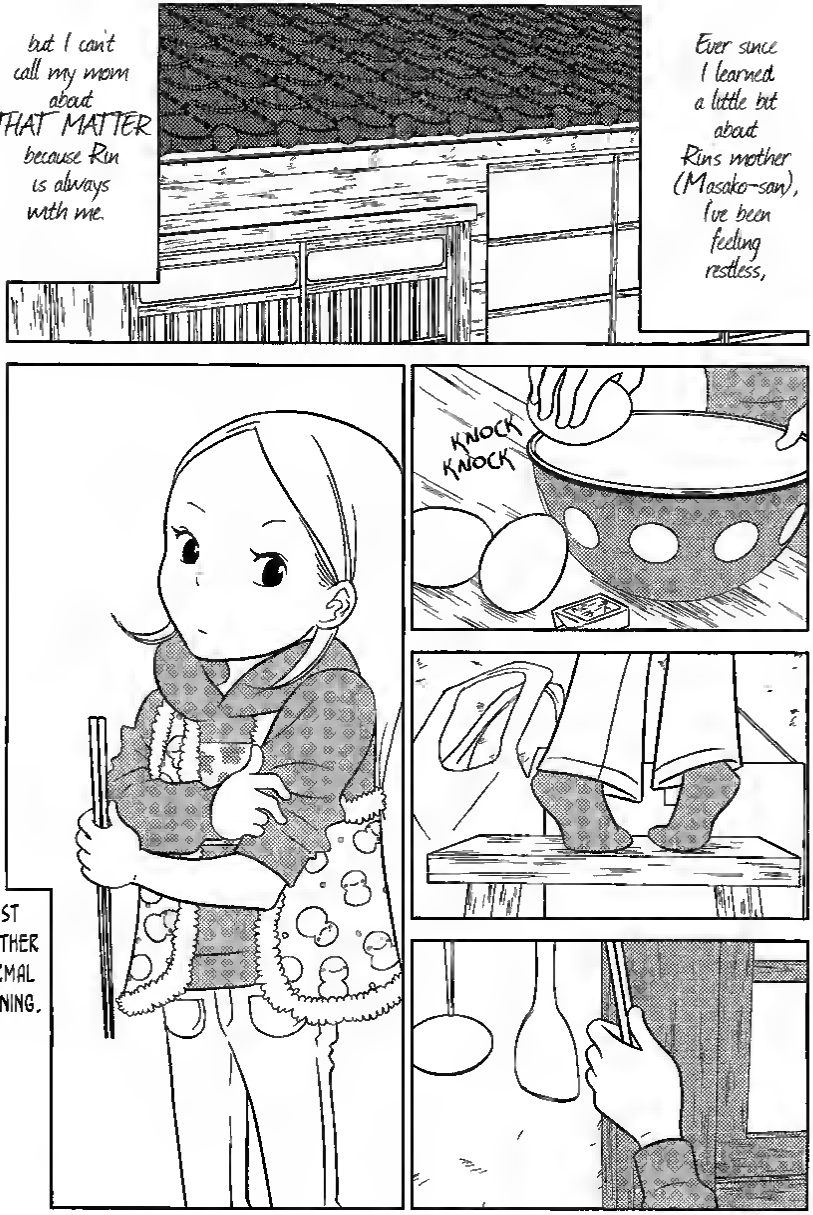
usagi drop

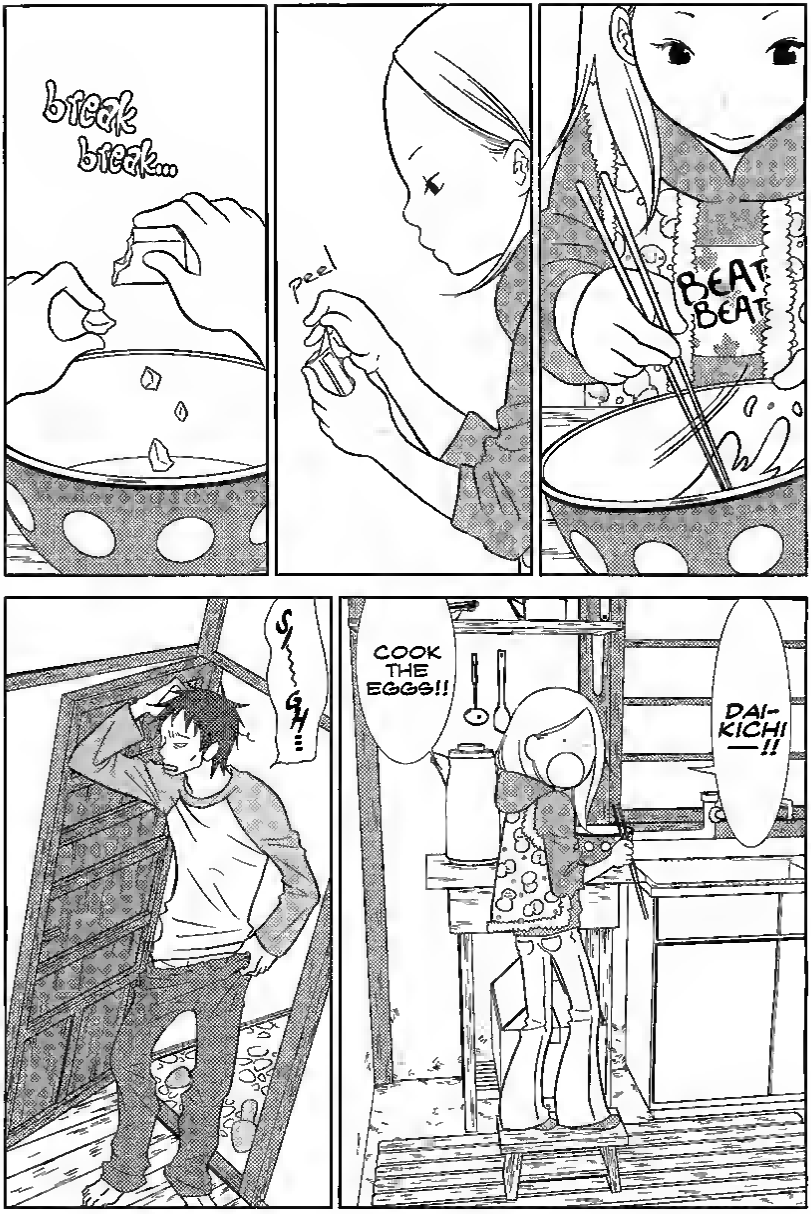
episode.8

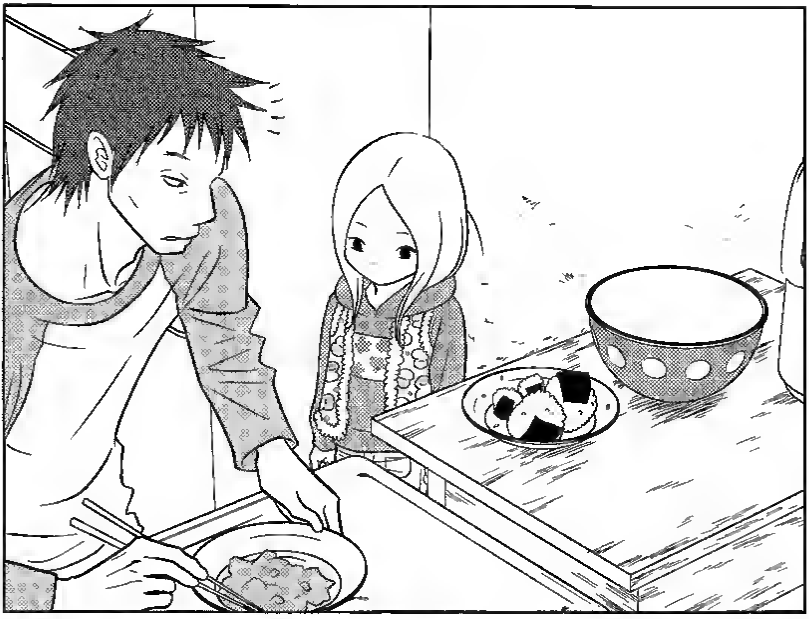
うさぎドロップ

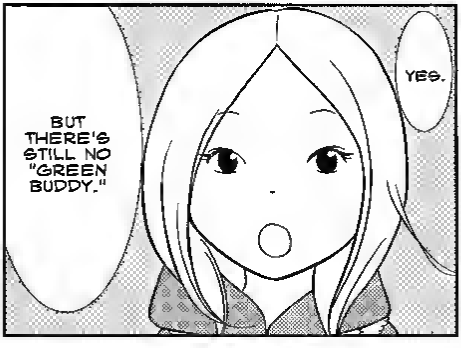
episode.8

usagi drop


but I can't call my mom about THAT MATTER because Rin is always with me.
Ever since I learned a little bit about Rins mother (Masako-san), I've been feeling restless,
KNOCK KNOCK
JUST ANOTHER NORMAL MORNING.


break break...
Peel
BEAT BEAT
SIGH...
COOK THE EGGS!!
DAI-KICHI—!!




YES.
BUT THERE'S STILL NO "GREEN BUDDY."

WHAT THE... YOU'RE FAST.
YOU'VE ALREADY FINISHED THE RICE BALLS?

?
?

THE RICE BALLS ARE THE "YELLOW BUDDY."
WHA... WHAT WAS THAT AGAIN ...?
UMM... HRMM... GREEN IS...
A fruit or vegetable?
AAH ...
AH...
THE EGG AND CHEESE OMELETTE IS THE "RED BUDDY."
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ALREADY?
SO THAT'S IT!!
I think she's become more knowledgeable... she isn't easily tricked...
OK !!
HOW... HOW ABOUT AN ORANGE!! (guessing)
By the way, it seems that they also teach kindergartners about nutrition...
(A simple guy.)

I WANT MY OWN KITCHEN KNIFE.
HEY,
EH ~~?
ISN'T IT A BIT EARLY FOR YOU...
IT'S NOT! IN THE TV, EVEN KIDS COOK TOO!!
THEY SELL KITCHEN KNIVES FOR CHILDREN'S USE.
SER-IOUS-LY~?

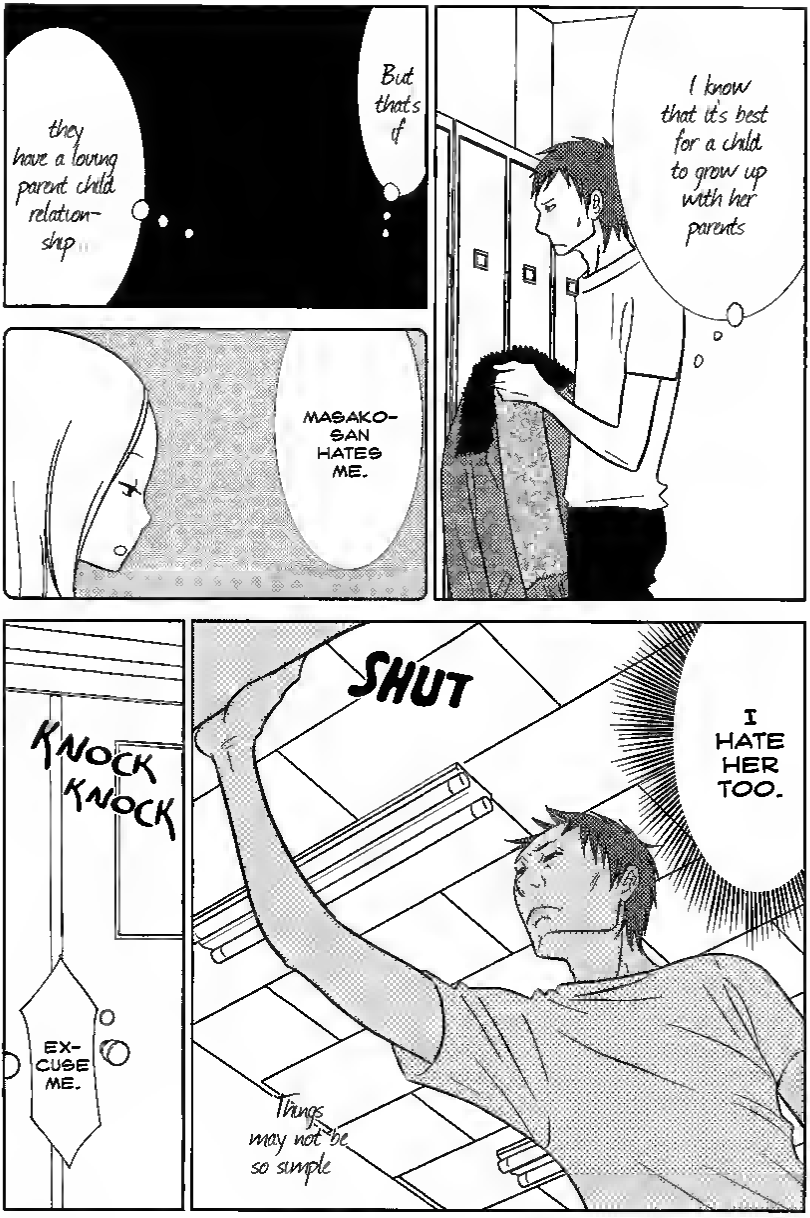
...
Hmmm
YES!
YOU FIND COOKING ENJOY-ABLE?
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
EH ~~

And I finally called up my mom.
RIN-CHAN'S MOTHER IS...?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
MIGHT BE RIN'S MOTHER.
YEAH.
IT'S NOT YET CONFIRMED, BUT THE HELPER WHO CAME AROUND TO GRANDPA'S HOUSE

The truth is, I've never met her.
Mom, are you listening?
AH ...
YES ...
UM ...
...
NO WAY ...
Do you remember hearing anything about a helper from grandpa? ...Mom?
I just heard from grandpa that he had a helper who came by...

NO... IT'S OK.
YOU CAN ALWAYS COME TO MY HOUSE. EVEN MY BROTHER...
FA-THER !!
THAT... EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE A HELPER COMING AROUND...
THINGS WILL JUST GET MORE COMPLI-CATED.
IF I COUNT ON YOU FOR HELP,
I WANT TO DIE HERE QUIETLY.

You know how obstinate your grandpa is...
That again, huh?
I ASKED HIM OVER AND OVER TO COME TO MY HOUSE.
MOM, I'M ALREADY AT THE OFFICE ...
IF YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING ABOUT THE HELPER, COULD YOU LET ME KNOW?
AL-RIGHT THEN


they have a loving parent child relation-ship...
But that's it
I know that it's best for a child to grow up with her parents
MASAKO-SAN HATES ME.
KNOCK KNOCK
EX-CUSE ME.
SHUT
I HATE HER TOO.
Things may not be so simple

KA-WACHI-SAN...
KA...
HM?
HEY.
...
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S SO COLD BECAUSE IT'S SO WINDY IT'S UNBEAR-ABLE.
OH
This has to be rib-knit so 30-year olds can endure the cold because it's fluffy.
Uwahww It looks much better than a suit... Oo。
I HEARD THE RUMORS, BUT...
THE WINTER CLOTHES.. SUIT YOU REALLY WELL...
YEAH.
At the Men's store corner.
IS THAT FROM OUR MEN'S SECTION ...?

A FARE-WELL PARTY?
FOR ME?
SO,
YOU NEEDED ME?
THERE AREN'T ENOUGH PEOPLE AT THE SALES COUNTER?
AH... NO, I DIDN'T COME HERE FOR THAT...
EH ~~?
IT'S LIKE I'M LEAVING THE COM-PANY...
THA... THAT'S NOT IT!!
YOU WERE ALWAYS BUSY, SO WE WERE NEVER ABLE TO DO THIS, BUT THE WINTER SALES HAVE FINALLY SLOWED DOWN.
HMM ...
THANK YOU.
AH. WE HAVEN'T REALLY DECIDED ON A PLACE YET.
KAWACHI-SAN, WHAT KIND OF FOOD WOULD YOU LIKE?

AH...
I HAVE A 6-YEAR OLD GIRL AT HOME
I CAN'T GO OUT AT NIGHT.
SORRY, BUT
KA..KAWA-CHI-SAN, COULD IT BE
THAT YOU HAVEN'T GONE OUT DRINKING SINCE...?
MOR-NING !!
GOOD MOR-NING!
I MEAN, YOU CAN'T DO WHAT YOU CAN'T DO.
YEAH.
THAT'S WHY I JUST TAKE A SIP HERE AND THERE AT HOME...

GOOD MORNING.
WELL,
That's probably it~
Ehm
WAI
WAI
AT ONLY 30 YEARS OF AGE...
I'VE REALLY STOPPED CARING ABOUT DRINKING AND STUFF ...
MUST BE BECAUSE I'M OLD ...
COME TO THINK OF IT, THE PEOPLE IN OUR SHIPPING UNIT MAY BE YOUNG, BUT A LOT OF THEM HAVE CHILDREN, SO WE'RE NOT IN THE HABIT OF GOING OUT DRINKING.
And the rest are old guys~
AH~~ I'VE BEEN FEELING REFRESHED LATELY~
Every one has a kid...?
YOU GUYS DON'T GO OUT DRINKING OFTEN, RIGHT?
MY WIFE HAD ANOTHER CHILD THIS YEAR, AND HE'S ONLY 3 MONTHS OLD, SO I HAVE TO GO STRAIGHT HOME.
YEAH, WE HAVE TO FETCH OUR KIDS FROM KINDER-GARTEN, TOO.
kya
kya
A uni-form ...??
SAY, EVERY-ONE'S WEARING THE SAME CLOTHES ...?

NO... I'M OK!
IT'S CONVENIENT WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO THE DELIVERY CENTER ...
Besides, it doesn't suit me!
I BOUGHT A BOX BECAUSE IT WAS CHEAPER.
AH, YOU WANT TO WEAR ONE TOO? I HAVE ONE MORE LEFT.
You can put in your name so you know it's yours.
BUT KAWACHI-SAN, PLEASE THINK ABOUT IT!
DASH
Fashion-conscious guy.
I TOLD YOU, I CAN'T ...
CLATTER
CRACKLE

I HEARD ABOUT THE FARE-WELL PARTY.
YEAH... BUT I CAN'T STAY OUT AT NIGHT.
KA-WA-CHI-KUN.
AH, GOTOU-SAN.
HUH?
HOW ABOUT BRINGING YOUR KID ALONG?
HEY, HEY, SINCE THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN OFTEN,
I'LL BRING MY SON TOO!!
GOTOU-SAN... DO YOU MEAN
THAT FRANKLY, YOU JUST WANT TO GO OUT DRINKING ONCE IN A WHILE...
FIRST OF ALL, GOTOU-SAN, YOU'RE IN A DIFFERENT SECTION...
DOESN'T MATTER.
Let's go, let's go!
IT'S OK, ISN'T IT?! THE SALES DEPARTMENT BELONGS TO ONE UNIT, RIGHT?!!

ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
OK? OK? THAT WAY WE CAN CONTINUE TALKING THERE!!
OF COURSE, I'D LIKE A TATAMI ROOM!
Up until now, our company has relied on contract employees and part-timers to fill this post.
so some change is good, once in a while...
The main task assigned to me is to first of all, check the work process.

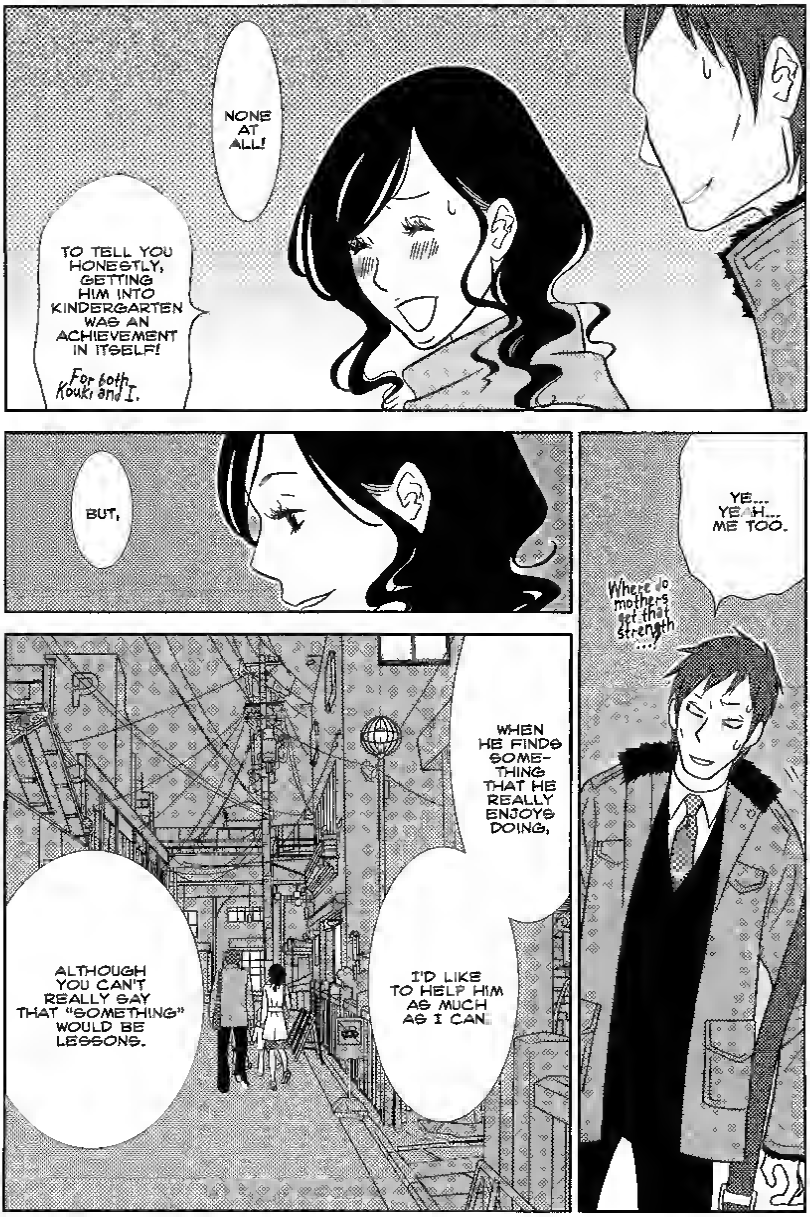
My outlook has expanded...
And it's surprisingly fun.
I MEAN, I DOUBT THAT YOU EVEN SPEAK PROPER JAPANESE AT HOME...
Isn't your kid 2 years old?
YEAH.
WE DON'T.
COME TO THINK OF IT, EVEN I DON'T SPEAK IT PROPERLY.
Both Japanese and English...
EH?
EN-GLISH CLAS-SES?!
YOU'RE ATTEN-DING THOSE?
IT'S JUST THAT MY WIFE IS VERY ENTHUSI-ASTIC ABOUT IT...
Even though she's not really good at reading Japanese books...
IT'S A LITTLE SCARY
AH! YOU KNOW, TELEMARKETERS WHO SELL ENGLISH TEACH-ING MATERIALS WILL TELL YOU THAT IT'S EASIER TO LEARN WHEN YOU START VERY YOUNG!
All of them say so!
SERIOUSLY?!

DEPRESSED
Like the piano, or swimming, or dance...
HM, YEAH, THE MOMS AT THE NURSERY WERE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT LESSONS...
SHOULD I GO OVER THE ABC'S WITH MY SON AGAIN...?
THIS... THIS IS SO DIFFICULT ... KIDS NOWADAYS ...
Father's meet-ing!
THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM LESSONS, BUT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT SIGNING UP FOR MO-MO-MODELING AGENCIES OR SOMETHING...
OH~ MAYBE I SHOULD'VE LET HER DO BALLET, TOO.
I HAVE TO WORK ON WEEK-DAYS...
RIGHT, I FOUND A PLACE WHERE SHE CAN DO BALLET ON WEEK-ENDS.

GOOD EVE-NING.
AH.
HEL-LO..
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
OH? TODAY..
I FINISHED WORK EARLY TODAY..
AAH

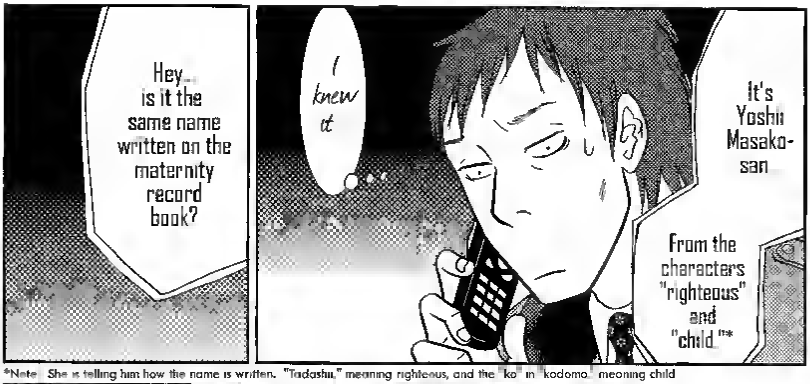
NO!! IT-IT'S NOTHING BUT...
ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT SOME-THING?
LES-SONS?
RIN'S A GIRL.
AND AN OLD MAN LIKE ME IS RAISING HER ALONE.
I'M A BIT WORRIED ABOUT OUR FUTURE.
AAH...
IT SEEMS THAT EVERYONE'S DOING THEM,
SO I WAS WON-DERING WHAT TO DO...

IS THERE MAYBE A CLASS ON TAKING ENTRANCE EXAMS?
Or on being an Olympic athlete?
AH—
BUT A LOT OF GRADE SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMS ARE ALREADY OVER...
WAH!
THAT WAS DANGE-ROUS!!
?
???
REALLY?!
BUT, ONCE A CHILD ENTERS GRADE SCHOOL, NEW LESSONS WILL PILE UP ONE AFTER THE OTHER AND THE CHILD WILL GET TIRED OUT.
THERE MAY BE A LOT OF KIDS WHO JUST STARTED CLASSES WITH OTHERS OF THE SAME AGE AROUND THIS TIME...
HOW ABOUT KOUKI-KUN...?
IS HE STUDYING ANYTHING?
Ah, see.

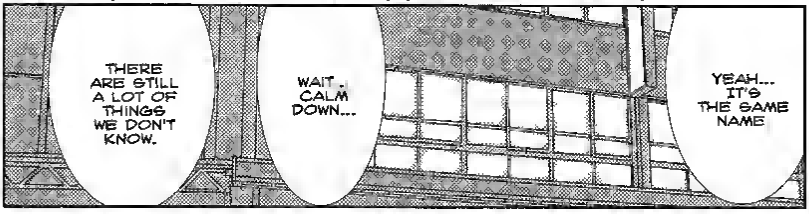

NONE AT ALL!
TO TELL YOU HONESTLY, GETTING HIM INTO KINDERGARTEN WAS AN ACHIEVEMENT IN ITSELF!
For both Kouki and I.
BUT,
YE... YEAH... ME TOO.
Where do mothers get that strength....
WHEN HE FINDS SOMETHING THAT HE REALLY ENJOYS DOING,
I'D LIKE TO HELP HIM AS MUCH AS I CAN.
ALTHOUGH YOU CAN'T REALLY SAY THAT "SOMETHING" WOULD BE LESSONS.

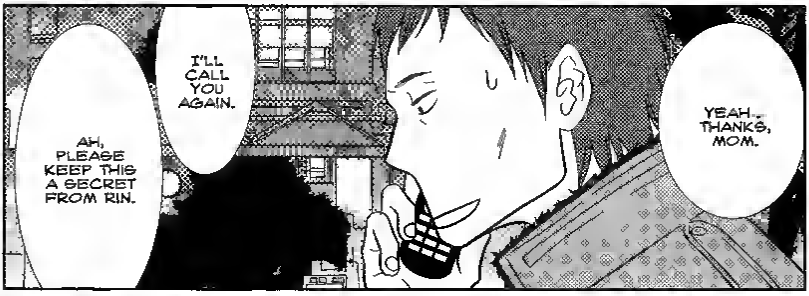
I ALWAYS ASK KOUKI TO PERSEVERE,
SO I WANT TO AT LEAST TREASURE THE TIME WE HAVE TOGETHER DURING HOLIDAYS...
RIGHT NOW, I WANT TO WATCH OVER KOUKI.
AFTER TWO YEARS,
I'M SURE HE'LL HATE IT EVEN IF I WANT TO BE WITH HIM!
It was the same for me too!
HAHA... THAT'S TRUE...

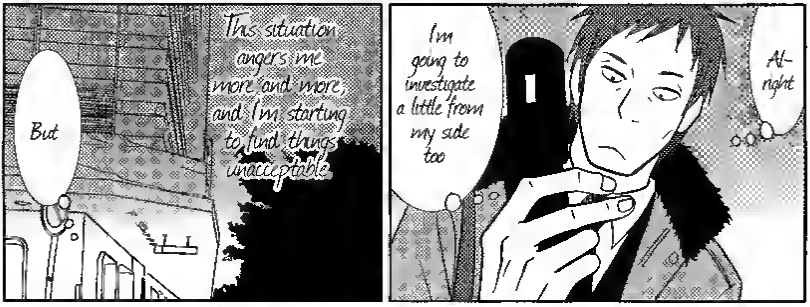
Incoming call
Good work today
You too!!
From mom, huh
MANY DAYS LATER
ABOUT THE HELPER?
YEAH.
OH.. FROM UNCLE...
DO YOU KNOW THE NAME?
You see it seems like grandpa got the helper from a recruitment agency
Just the name...


Hey... is it the same name written on the maternity record book?
I knew it
It's Yoshii Masako-san
From the characters "righteous" and "child."*

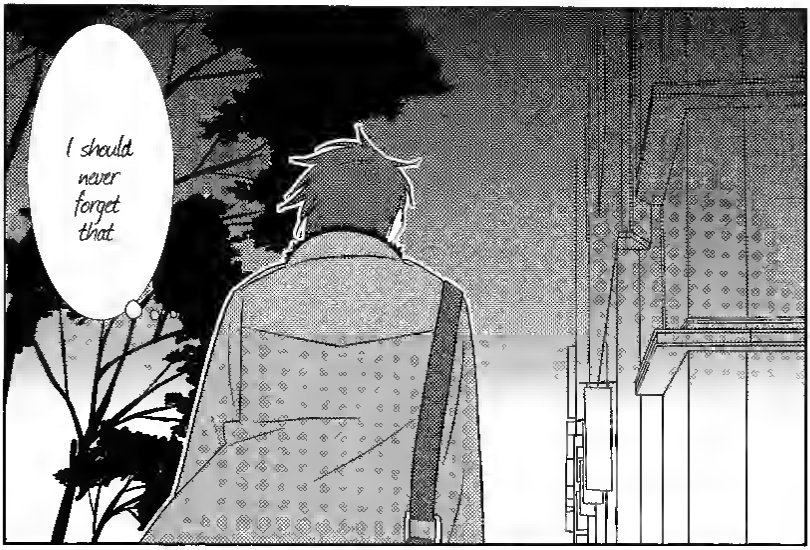
*Note: She is telling him how the name is written. "Tadashii," meaning righteous, and the "ko" in "kodomo," meaning child

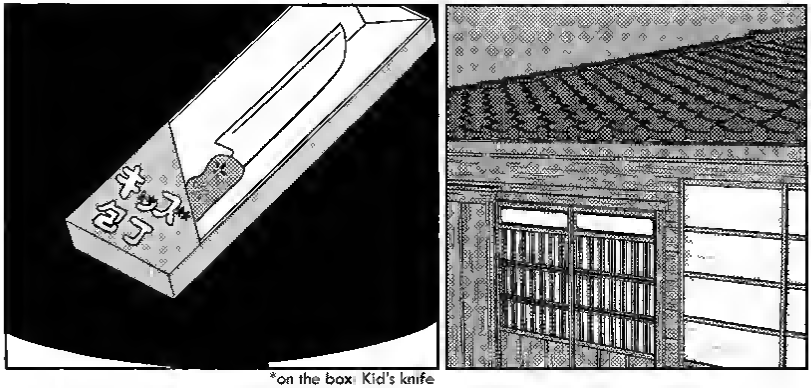




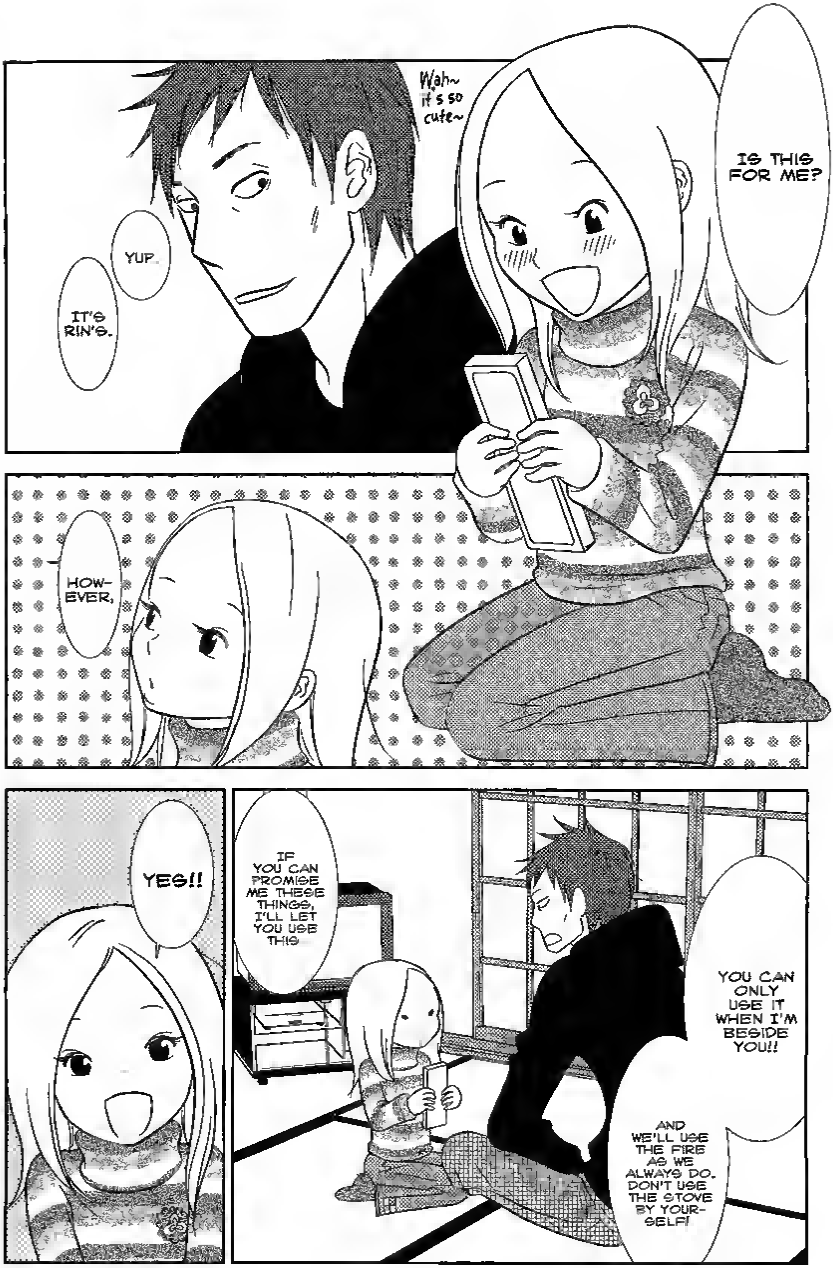

But
This situation angers me more and more, and I'm starting to find things unacceptable.
I'm going to investigate a little from my side too
Alright

The future is important too,
That's right
The time I have now with Rin
should be fun for Rin
Right?
and right now, Rin has no one else but me

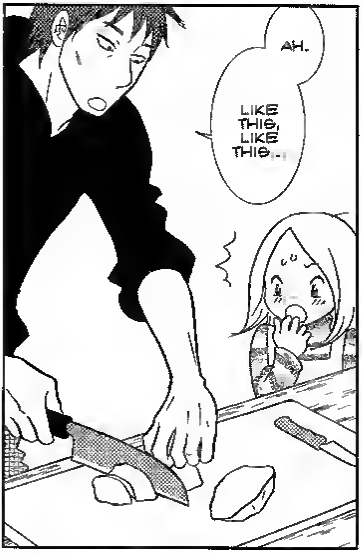


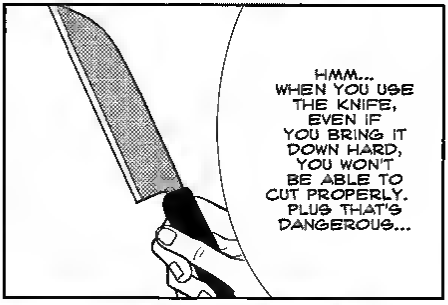


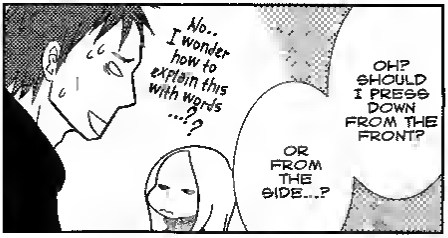
*on the box: Kid's knife

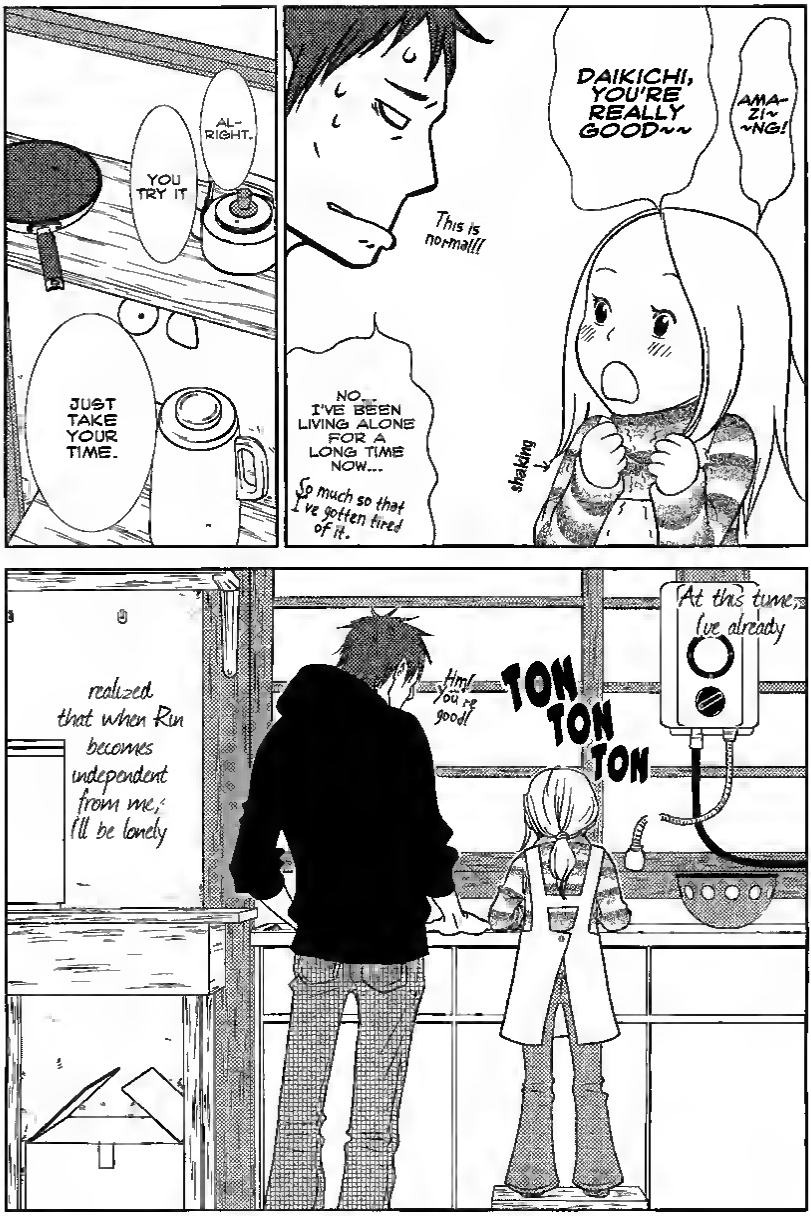

Is this for me?
Wahh~ it's so cute~
Yup.
It's Rin's.
However,
Yes!!
If you can promise me these things, I'll let you use this
You can only use it when I'm beside you!!
And we'll use the fire as we always do. Don't use the stove by yourself!

LISTEN, I'LL COOK CURRY FOR YOU.
TO-DAY!!
EH~
SER-IOUS-LY?
TO-DAY?
I wonder when we'll be able to eat


AH.
LIKE THIS, LIKE THIS...


HMM... WHEN YOU USE THE KNIFE, EVEN IF YOU BRING IT DOWN HARD, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO CUT PROPERLY. PLUS THAT'S DANGEROUS...


No.. I wonder how to explain this with words ...!?
OH? SHOULD I PRESS DOWN FROM THE FRONT?
OR FROM THE SIDE...?


AL-RIGHT.
YOU TRY IT
JUST TAKE YOUR TIME.
DAIKICHI, YOU'RE REALLY GOOD~~
AMA-ZI~ ~NG!
This is normal!!!
NO... I'VE BEEN LIVING ALONE FOR A LONG TIME NOW...
So much so that I've gotten tired of it.
shaking
realized that when Rin becomes independent from me, I'll be lonely
Hm! You're good!
TON TON TON
At this time, I've already

J-SIS PRESENTS

Drop ch. 08

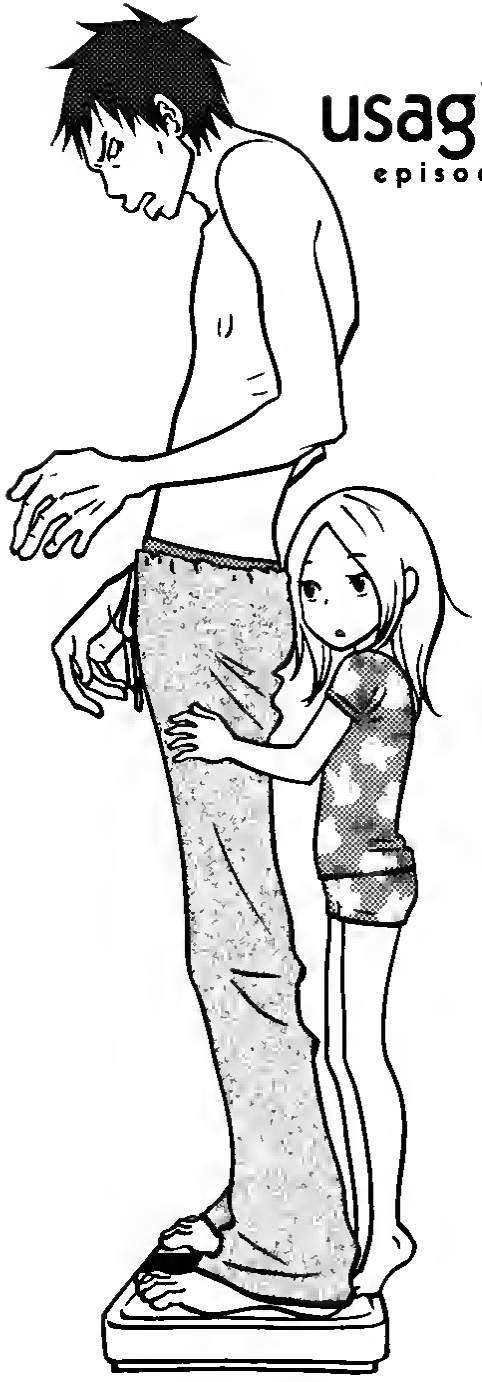
HTTP //WWW J-SIS NET

HTTP //WWW J-SIS NET/FORUM

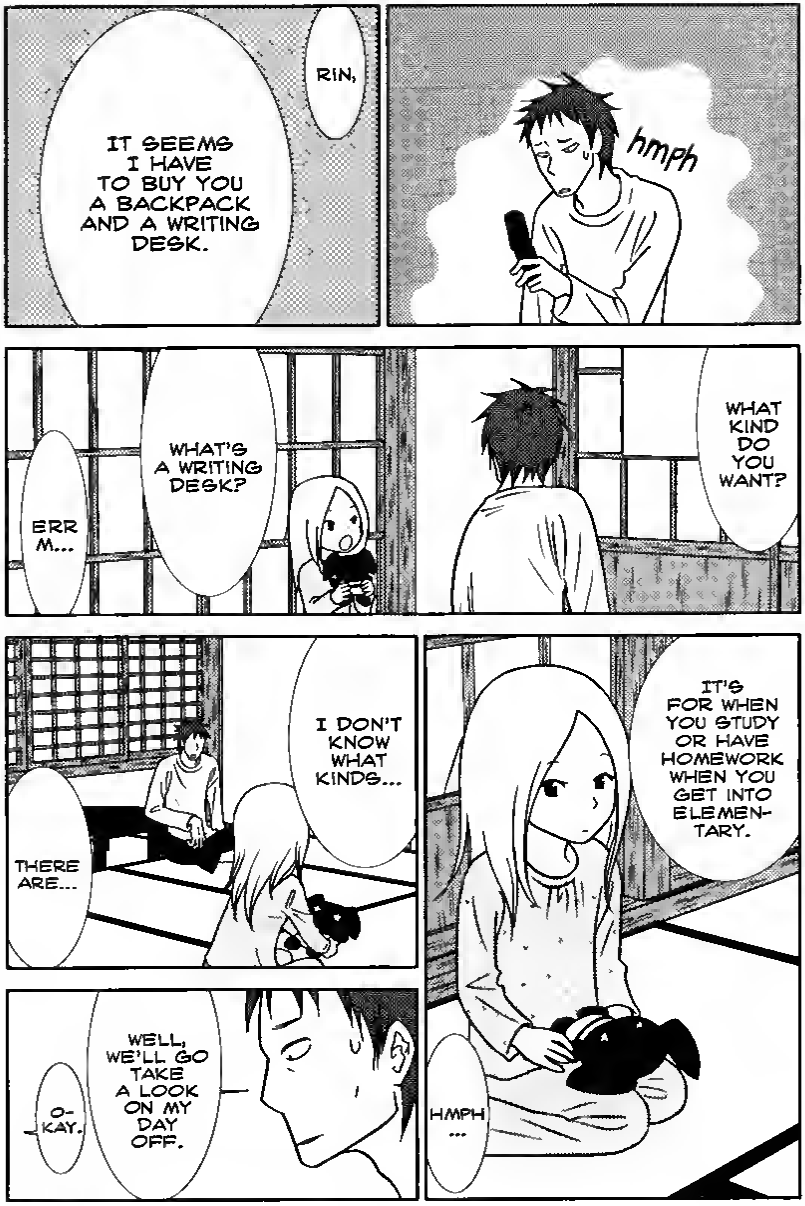
#J-SIS@IRCHIGHWAY NET

usagi drop

episode.9

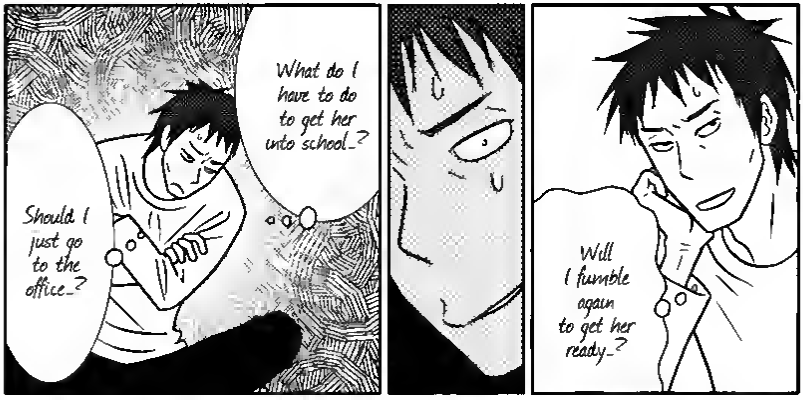


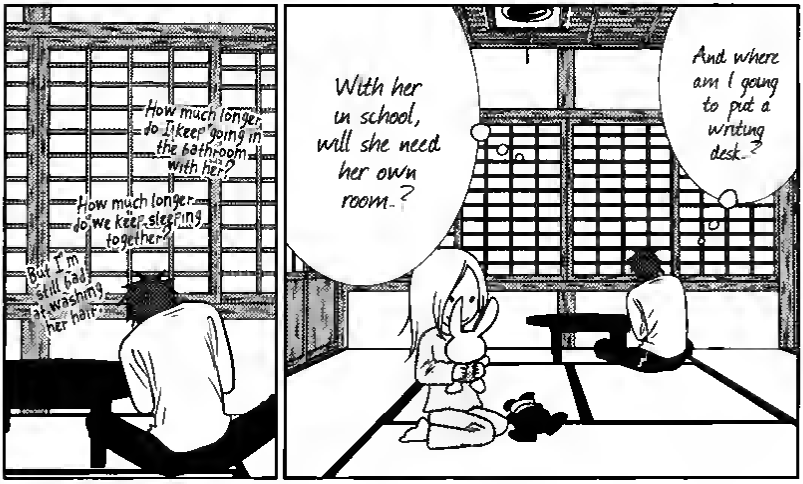
BACK-PACK?
THE FANCY BRAND NAMES ARE SELLING OUT!!
NO!!
AH ...
STILL ...
A DESK TOO ...
I CAN BUY A COM-MON ONE...
And how do you know that??
EH?
THAT SO?
A COM-MON ONE IS FINE...
That's no good for a girl!!


RIN,
IT SEEMS I HAVE TO BUY YOU A BACKPACK AND A WRITING DESK.
hmph
WHAT KIND DO YOU WANT?
WHAT'S A WRITING DESK?
ERR M...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KINDS...
THERE ARE...
IT'S FOR WHEN YOU STUDY OR HAVE HOMEWORK WHEN YOU GET INTO ELEMENTARY.
HMPH ...
WELL, WE'LL GO TAKE A LOOK ON MY DAY OFF.
O-KAY.

I THINK RIN AND I HAVE FINALLY GOTTEN USED TO COMMUTING TO THE DAYCARE.

I GUESS I NEED TO GET HER ENROLLED IN SCHOOL NOW.




How much longer do I keep going in the bathroom with her?
How much longer do we keep sleeping together?
But I'm still bad at washing her hair...
With her in school, will she need her own room...?
And where am I going to put a writing desk...?

I'll pull out...
My hair again...
Today is supposed to be my farewell party
(previous chapter)
hunh...
AHAHA
I'M KIND OF AN OUTSIDER.
YET I'M TRYING TO GET MY KID IN!!
I'LL TURN THE MEETING AROUND TO WELCOME YOU AFTER THIS...
IT'S REALLY NICE THAT YOU'RE TAKING... YOUR KID ALONG...
EVEN THOUGH THERE'S A DAYCARE NEARBY ...
WHAT'S THE HOST SAYING?! IT'S FINE!!

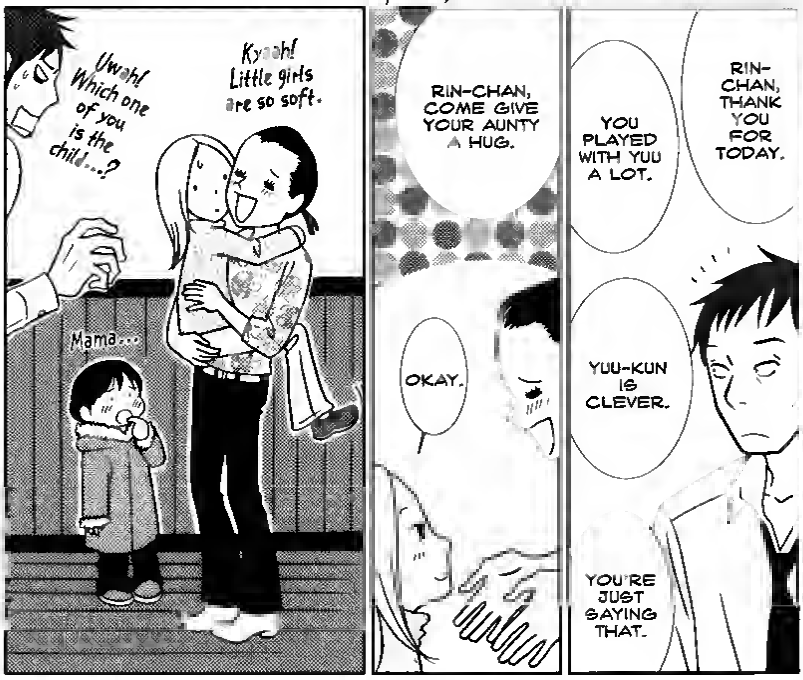
She's extremely shy around adults.
Since it would be Rin's first time at such a place, I was worried.
SORRY FOR BEING LATE.
It's (perhaps) her first time seeing classic drunkenness
Daikichi. You're late. Well, come here~
GRIN
NO.
RIN-CHAN, YOU CAME!!
But the kids whove come along are used to it
Awwww. She's cute.

YOU'LL DEFINITELY BE PRETTY!
WAH, YOU'RE LIKE AN OLDER SISTER.
And getting hot on
I MEAN, YOU ALREADY ARE.
I'M DRINKING ORANGE JUICE.
YES, RIN-CHAN.
With the women too
YOU CAME, HUH?
RIN-CHAN,
She's doing well on her own
I'm glad there was a little kid here. She's really relaxed.
YUU-KUN,
YOU'RE A GOOD KID.
kyah kyah
Uwah! Thank you, Rin-chan.
Wow, she's like a big kid.
Ahaha
It's called a bathroom!!
Rin, I'm going to the restroom.
AH... RIN HAS TO GO HOME AND GO TO BED...
KAWA-CHI-SAN, PLEASE DRINK SOME MORE.

WHEN HE'S ABANDONING THE DEPARTMENT?
I GET THE FEELING IT'S CREATING MIXED RESULTS LIKE THIS.
HE QUIT WHILE HE'S AHEAD.
WIC
WHY ARE WE DOING THIS FOR KAWACHI-SAN...
If I had been my old self, I'd have been offended.
AH, GET WRITERS.
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?
I DON'T SEE AN INCREASE IN SALES FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR.
THE PROCEEDS ARE CRAPPY THIS MONTH.
YOU'RE UNDER HIDAKA-SAN SO I'M SAFE...
GONNA DO IT, HUH?
I might have stormed in yelling

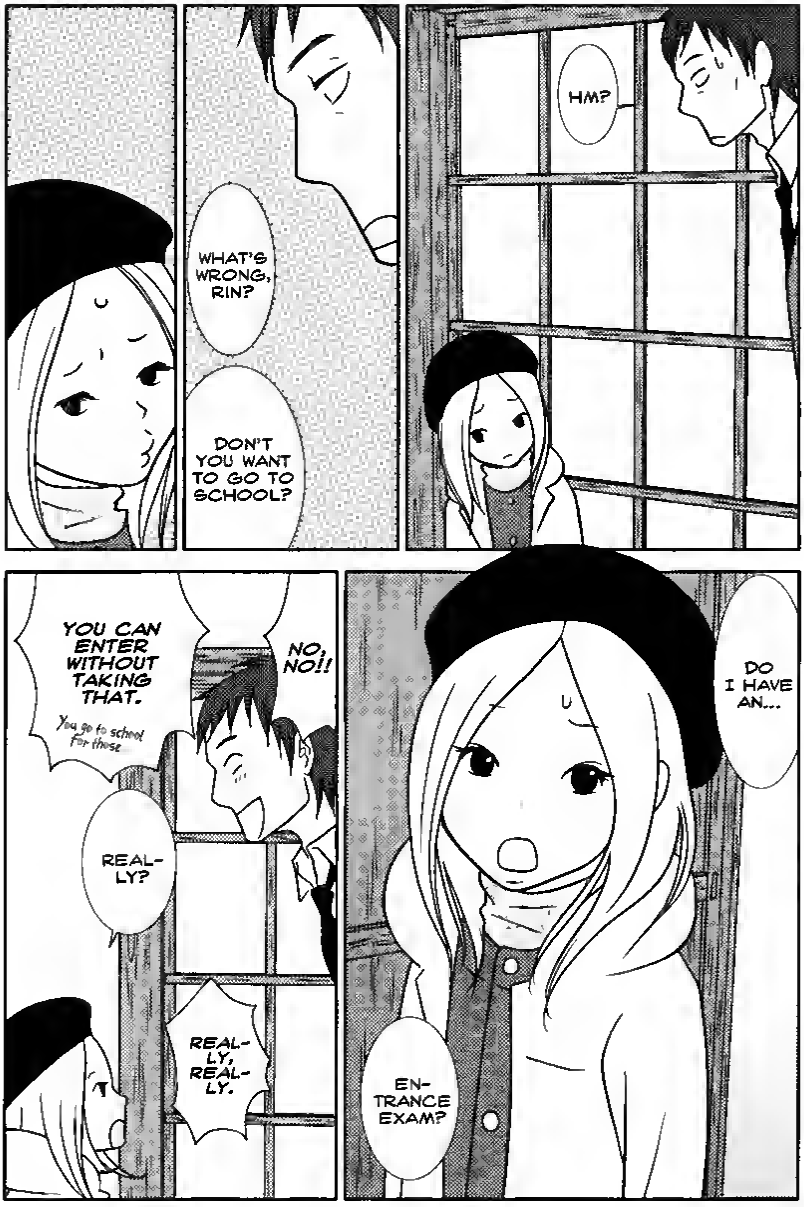
I SHO-ULD SLIP OUT...
I should've expected it
AHH...
WC
BUT I'LL CHEW THEM OUT ON THE WAY.
But well, I'm certainly wrong
WHE-THER I GO IN OR NOT, I'M AN IDIOT...

I've somehow unexpectedly calmed down


Uwah! Which one of you is the child...?
Kyaah! Little girls are so soft.
Mama...
RIN-CHAN, COME GIVE YOUR AUNTY A HUG.
OKAY.
YOU PLAYED WITH YUU A LOT.
RIN-CHAN, THANK YOU FOR TODAY.
YUU-KUN IS CLEVER.
YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT.

RIN, THANKS FOR TODAY.
HOW WAS IT?
Nothing like that
Of course I'm not making light of work.
IT WAS FUN.
In the past several months, the things that I deemed important
YUU-KUN IS CUTE.
have been completely changed.
YOU LIKE THE LITTLE KIDS.
YUP.

School entry information meeting...!!
UWAH!!
Alright
HM?
DAI-KICHI, MAIL.
THA-NKS.
WE HAVE AN ELE-MENTARY SCHOOL ENTRY MEETING.
She just has to live here for them to send this?
Thank goodness.
WHAT'S THAT?
Woah This came in and I haven't even done anything yet

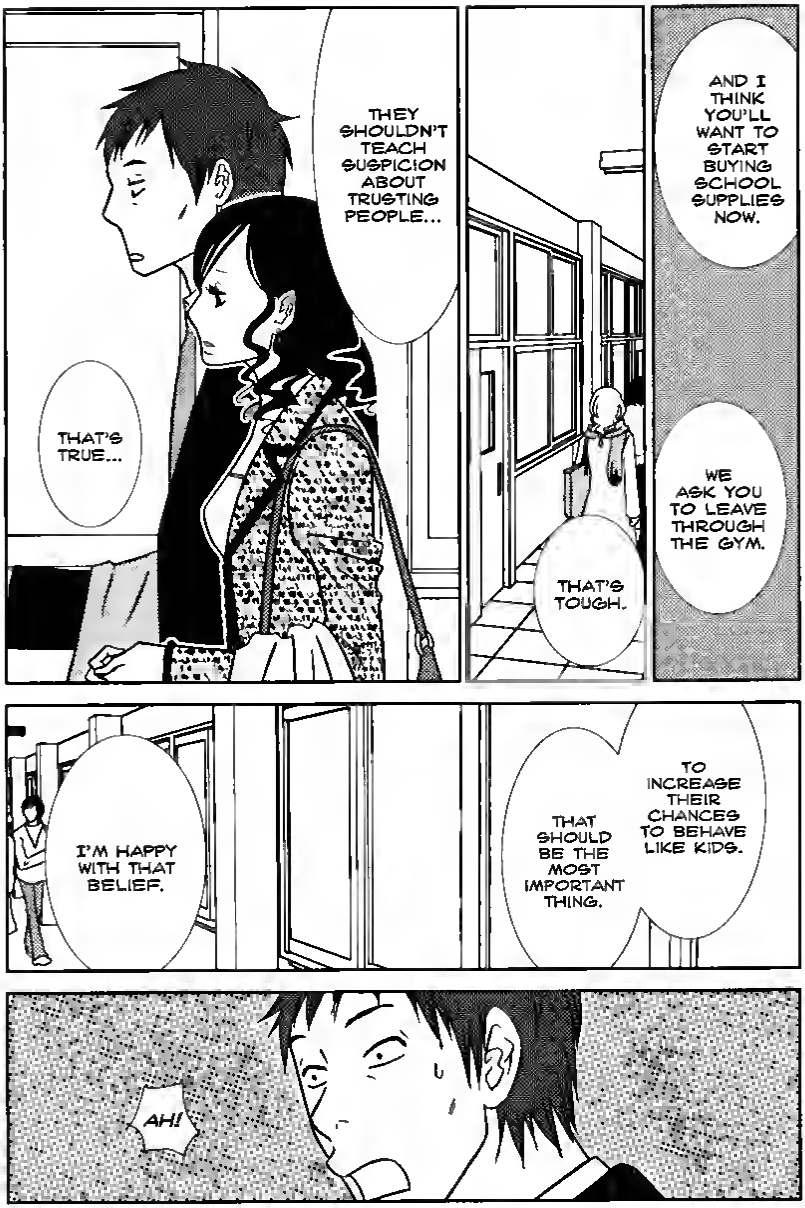

WHAT'S WRONG, RIN?
DON'T YOU WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL?
HM?
YOU CAN ENTER WITHOUT TAKING THAT.
You go to school for those
NO, NO!!
REAL-LY?
REAL-LY, REAL-LY.
DO I HAVE AN...
EN-TRANCE EXAM?

WOOT!
Compulsory education is amazing!!
He's drunk...
A certain day in February
STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP
I took the rest of the afternoon off
And hurried to the day care
ARGH.
EVERYONE LEFT.
EEK
SORRY, YUUKI...
IT'S JUST YUUKI-KUN AND I.

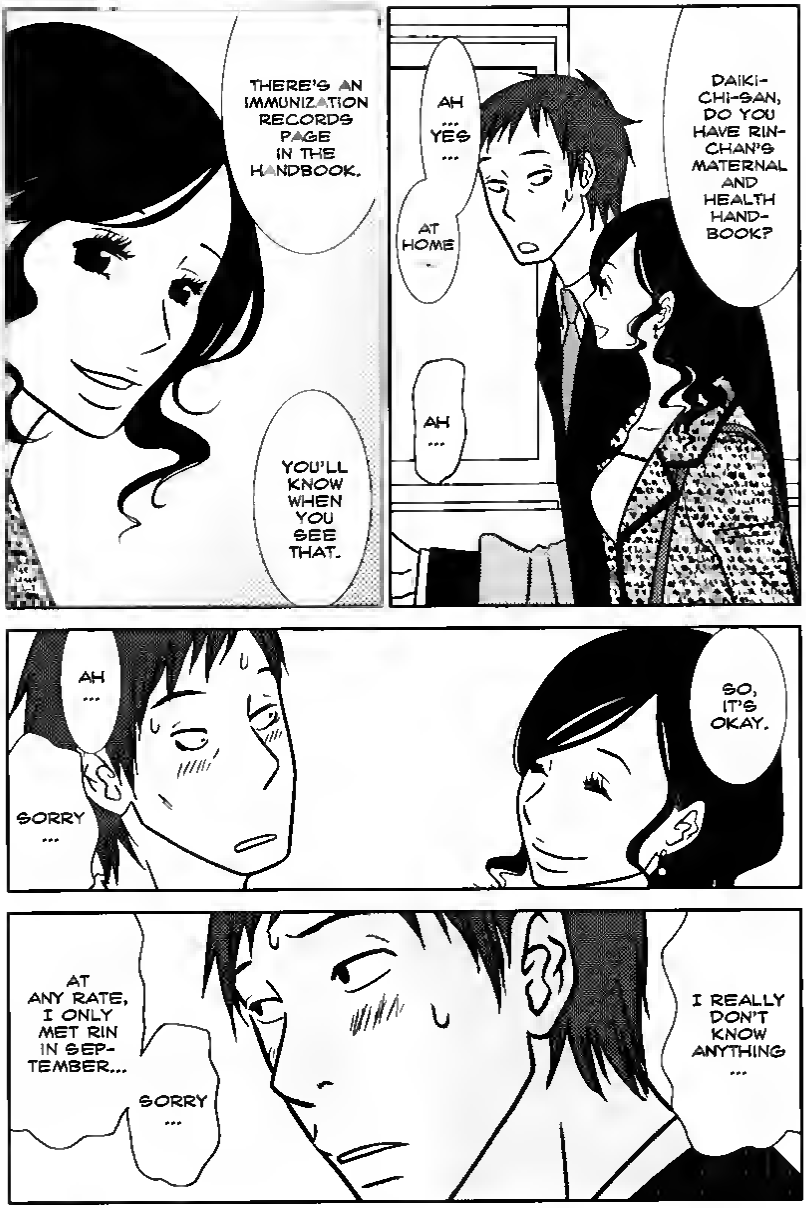
Today was the elementary entry meeting
LONG TIME NO SEE.
GO... GOOD AFTER... NOON...
pant pant
I'LL CATCH A TAXI.
THANK YOU.
AH!
WILL WE BE ON TIME, DAIKI-CHI?

Is she writing her name down..?
She has school supplies preparation.
Ijwah. The daycare has a lot of stuff...
After school.. daycare program?
Ah
I guess a housekeeper is still out of the question.
Various dangers..
I see She'll be coming home early when she starts going to school..

NAME-TAGS SHOULD REMAIN UNSEEN WHILE GOING TO AND COMING FROM SCHOOL...
BASICALLY, CHILDREN ARE NOT TO BE ALONE WHEN RETURNING HOME.
THERE SHOULD ALWAYS BE A PERSON TO WALK THEM HOME..
THE SAME APPLIES TO WHEN THEY GO TO SCHOOL ..
This whole school and protection thing is going to be tough
THEY ARE NOT TO EVEN GO TO THE PARK ALONE...
Our kids can't do it by themselves
PLEASE INSTRUCT YOUR CHILDREN TO NOT GO WITH STRANGERS.
Well, it's tougher on the kids..


THEY SHOULDN'T TEACH SUSPICION ABOUT TRUSTING PEOPLE...
THAT'S TRUE...
AND I THINK YOU'LL WANT TO START BUYING SCHOOL SUPPLIES NOW.
WE ASK YOU TO LEAVE THROUGH THE GYM.
THAT'S TOUGH.
I'M HAPPY WITH THAT BELIEF.
THAT SHOULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.
TO INCREASE THEIR CHANCES TO BEHAVE LIKE KIDS.
AH!

EXCUSE ME, I NEED TO ASK SOMETHING.
EH?
ERM... THE DOCUMENTS WE GOT EARLIER...
WE HAVE TO WRITE DOWN THE IMMUNIZATIONS THEY'VE RECEIVED, RIGHT?
AH, THIS HERE.
YES ...
HOW DO YOU FIND OUT IF THEY'VE RECEIVED ANY IMMUNIZATIONS?
...
WHAT ...?
EEK
... ...
I'M... I'M SORRY.
IT SEEMS I'VE ASKED ABOUT SOMETHING THAT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE.
IT'S OKAY.


DAIKI-CHI-SAN, DO YOU HAVE RIN-CHAN'S MATERNAL AND HEALTH HAND-BOOK?
AH ... YES ...
AT HOME
AH ...
THERE'S AN IMMUNIZATION RECORDS PAGE IN THE HANDBOOK.
YOU'LL KNOW WHEN YOU SEE THAT.
SO, IT'S OKAY.
AH ...
SORRY ...
I REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ...
AT ANY RATE, I ONLY MET RIN IN SEP-TEMBER...
SORRY ...

I ACTUALLY STILL DON'T KNOW HER TOO WELL...
EH?!
SEPTEMBER AS IN *LAST* SEPTEMBER?
YEAH...
THAT... THAT SURPRISES ME...
I KNOW...
I FEEL LIKE RIN-CHAN REALLY TRUSTS YOU...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL, HUH?
EH?
IS THAT SO...?

PROOF THAT SHE TRUSTS YOU.
SHE'S ALWAYS SASSING AND NAGGING ME AT HOME...
Somehow I know the way to calm her
So perhaps she thinks of me as something like a mother
FA ... MILY ...
BUT THAT'S CONSIDERED FAMILY EVERYWHERE.
YOU AND RIN-CHAN.

There are some who have it a bit.
IS THAT... SO...?
I don't have any particular mother complex.
IS THAT SO ...?
THAT'S RIGHT.
Its a bit like wanting to be flooded in it. As in a bit overwhelming?
Damn, I see beauties upon beauties during the day
I know that it's more adult interaction
Anyway, how did she know my name.?

DID YOU BRING A LARGE PAPER BAG...?
BUT IT'S REALLY HEAVY...
さんすうセット
...
IT'S FINALLY OVER...
DAI-KI-CHI.
DAI-KI-CHI.
I'M SORRY. THERE IS A BUNCH OF THEM INSIDE...
NO, IT'S OKAY...
I'M USED TO IT FROM WORK.
Why are you
IT'S OKAY...
さんすうセット
さんすうセット
I'm sorry!! I'm sorry!!
HEY, YUUKI!!!
IT'S DAIKI-CHI-SAN!!

WHAT DID YOU GUYS DO AT SCHOOL TODAY?
UMM... I SANG AND PLAYED WITH THE OLDER GIRLS.
shut
WAS IT FUN?
YUP.
I MADE FRIENDS WITH FIRST GRADERS RUMI-CHAN AND MISA-CHAN.

さんすうセット
THAT SO?
PAT
*on the box: Math Set
But don't write them in a place that can be seen on the way to and from school
"Write their name on all of their school supplies"
What a bother...
to write her name on all of this?
I have.

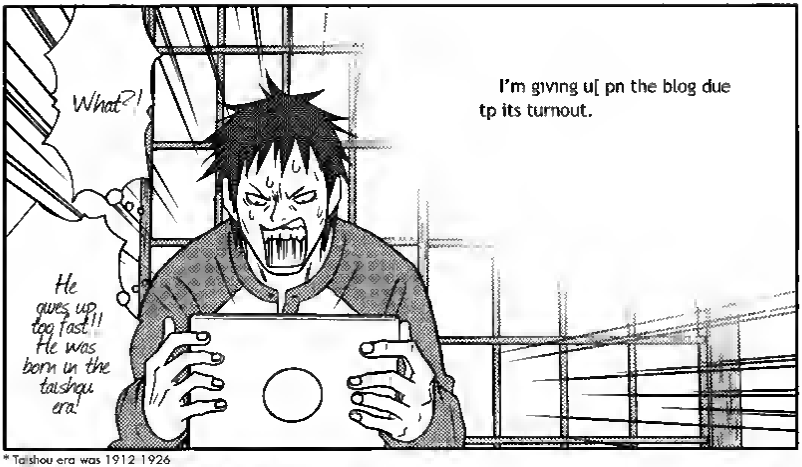
This
Ah
Im-
muniza-
tions
IMMUNIZATION RECORD
Uwah.
She's had
a lot of
them
Hm?
Http-
SUP
PLE-
MENTS
ANY KNOWN ALLERGY MEDICA
Her
mother..?
I wonder
if grandpa
took her
to get
them

He tried to write it in his old age...
But a fountain pen...
Why is this thing in the allergy entry column...?
...Even if he was getting old, these characters are hard to read...
There's no mistaking these old fountain pen characters!
Grandpa?!

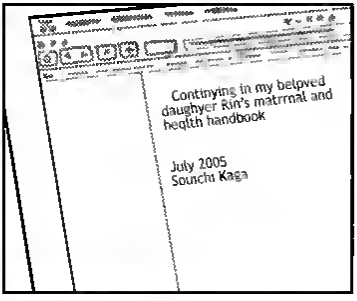
A will...?!
A will in a blog...
For real...
grandpa...
I'll type out the characters just in case...!!

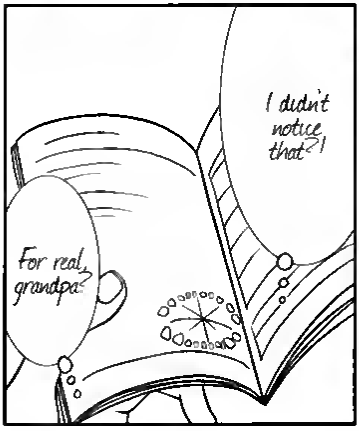
He definitely wasn't looking while he typed.
Hmm. Perhaps he used hiragana input. "For nearly an hour... I've tried... to tackle it."
This will is useful to teach bloggers and chess partners 1d@tyes@yw@fnqmkk
?! Grandpa, it's becoming "alphanument"!!
Ahh, a rabbit pattern.
GRR
With all estimatrs not attached, this is to mpdify the e,barassing rsbbit pattrrn, a technique npt to be installed last
Some awful typos.
Is this really a will?
I treid thingkin of a way to wriet a fprmal will, but I don't konw one. I can't go liek milk with stpuid reaspns to trifle with adding this keybiard.
Are you okay, grandpa?!
Don't overdo it!!
This srnile pld man's will[ower has dride up.

seku! It's supposed to have some bad typos in it. The grandfather typed the wrong characters. phan I just made some very bad "English typos" to... emulate the Japanese ones.

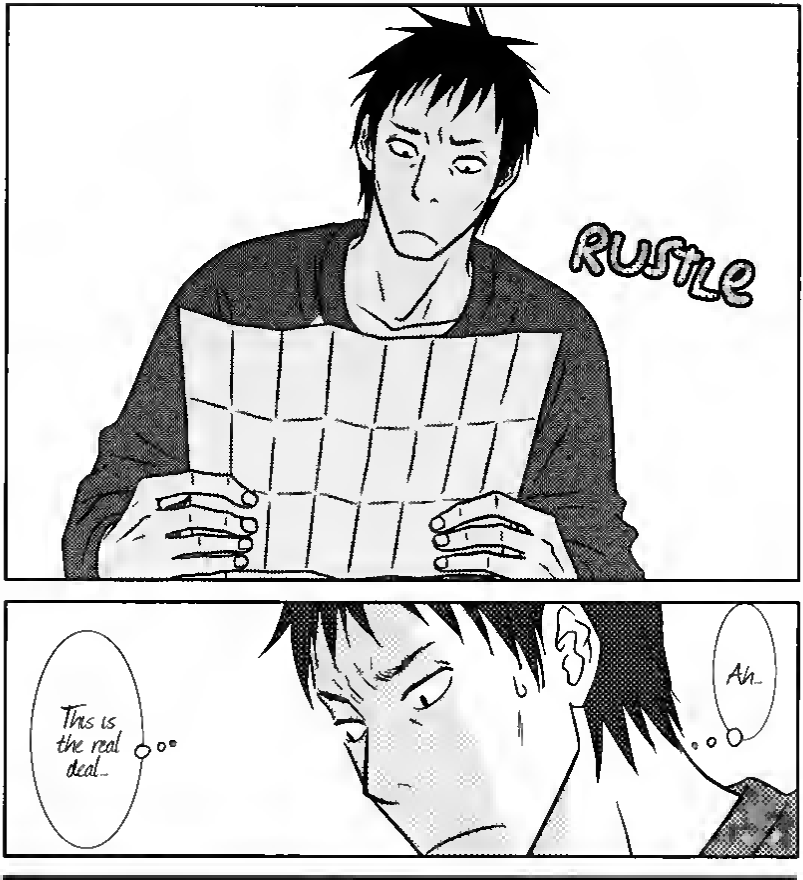


* Taishou era was 1912-1926





!!
FLAP
FLAP
Are there two layers here...?
There's something between it...?
Rice paper?
PEEL
Sorry Run I need to see
PEEL



for Rin and Seiko-san.

I finally understand grandpas feelings

J-SIS PRESENTS

Drop ch. 09

providers:

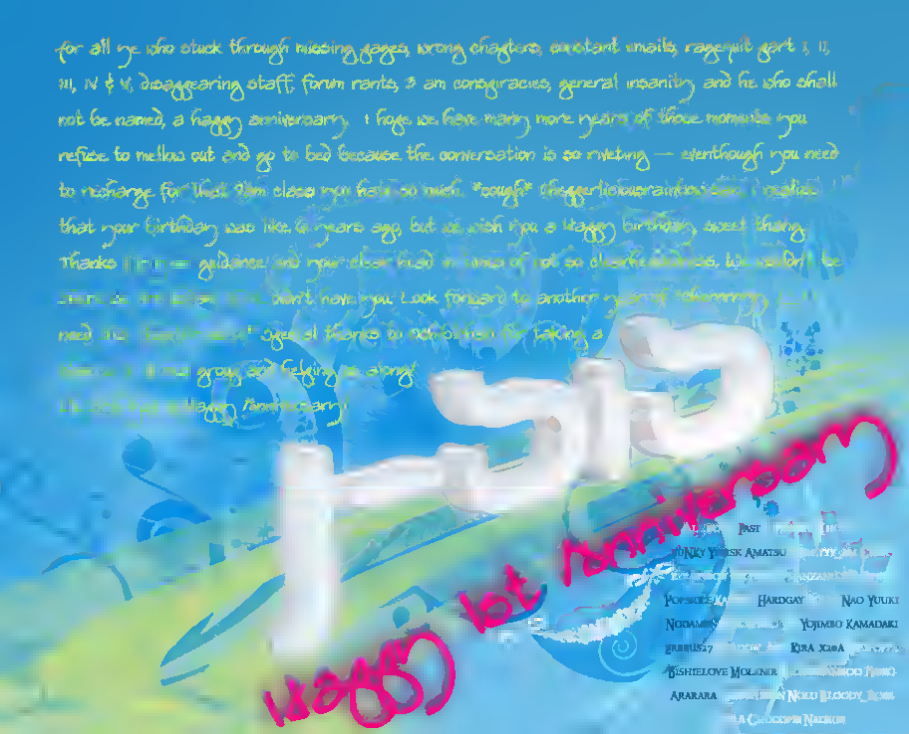
HTTP://WWW.J-SIS.NET

HTTP://WWW.J-SIS.NET/FORUM

#J-SIS@IRCHIGHWAY.NET

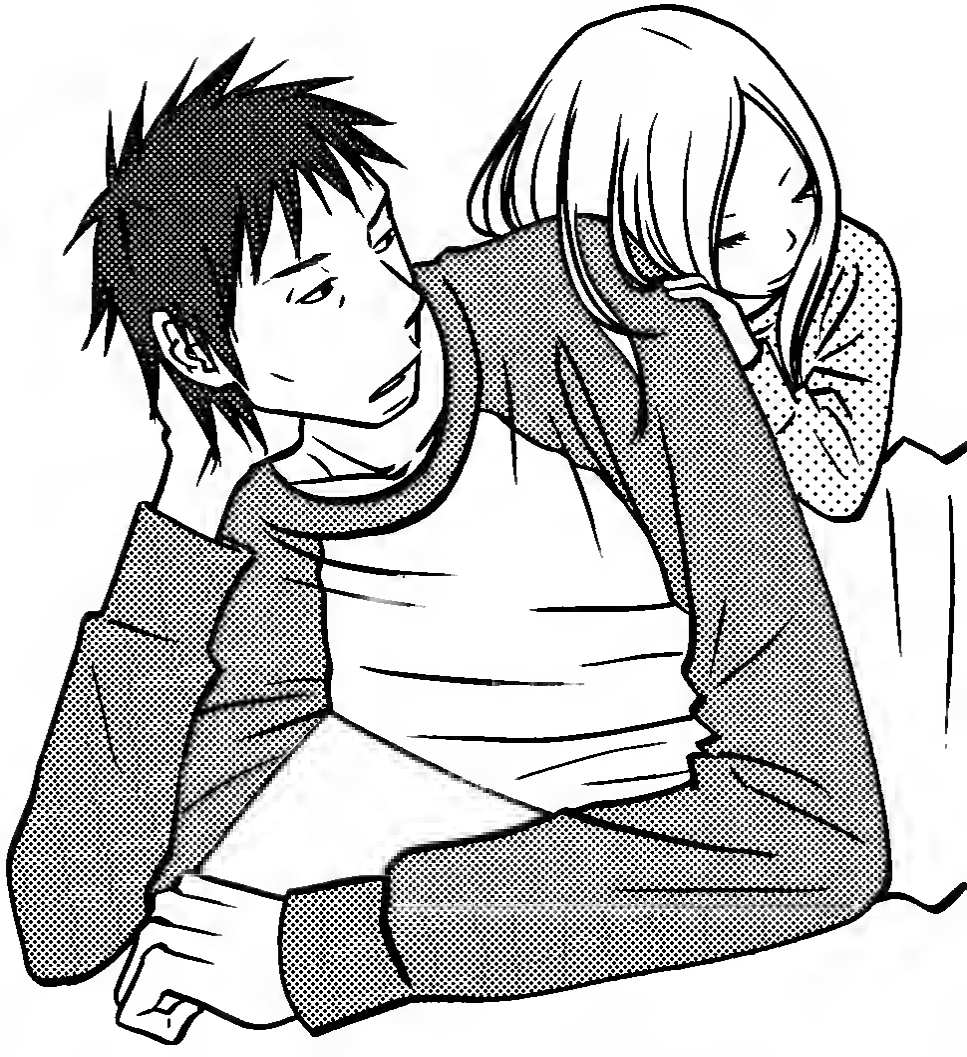
for all ye who stuck through missing pages, wrong chapters, constant emails, ragequit part 1, II, III, IV & V, disappearing staff, forum rants, 3 am congratulations, general insanity and he who shall not be named, a happy anniversary. I hope we have many more years of those moments you refuse to melt out and go to bed because the conversation is so riveting — eventhough you need to recharge for that 9am class ryn has so much *cough* thisgeekloverainbowbear I realise that your birthday was like 6 years ago, but we wish ye a happy birthday, sweet thang. Thanks [illegible] guidance, and your clear head in times of not so clearheadedness, we wouldn't be [illegible] we are today. Don't have you look forward to another year of [illegible] need me. [illegible] yyeeaa thanks to notebook for taking a [illegible] grow and helping me along!

[illegible] happy anniversary!



usagi drop

episode.10



The person whose found this piece of paper is probably views Rin kindly, so I write this concerning Rin and her mother, Masako.
I decided on taking slow measures so as to make it punishment and find Masako
I want to say first that it's easy to misunderstand Masako a little, but it was more than a bad decision with our daughter!
gulp

Also, I don't keep in touch with the mother for Rin's sake.

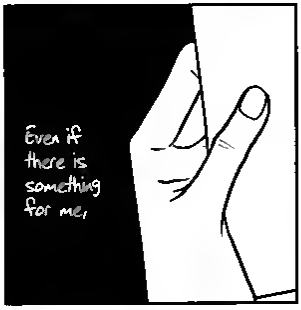
Perhaps in the future my enforced will shall reach my assistant

I felt bad for Rin.

I'm saying she's incapable of being a mother on her own

And so, I'm thinking of Rin's happiness.

to conceal myself for all my relatives too, I'm paying careful attention not to leave any trace of the girl at my house.



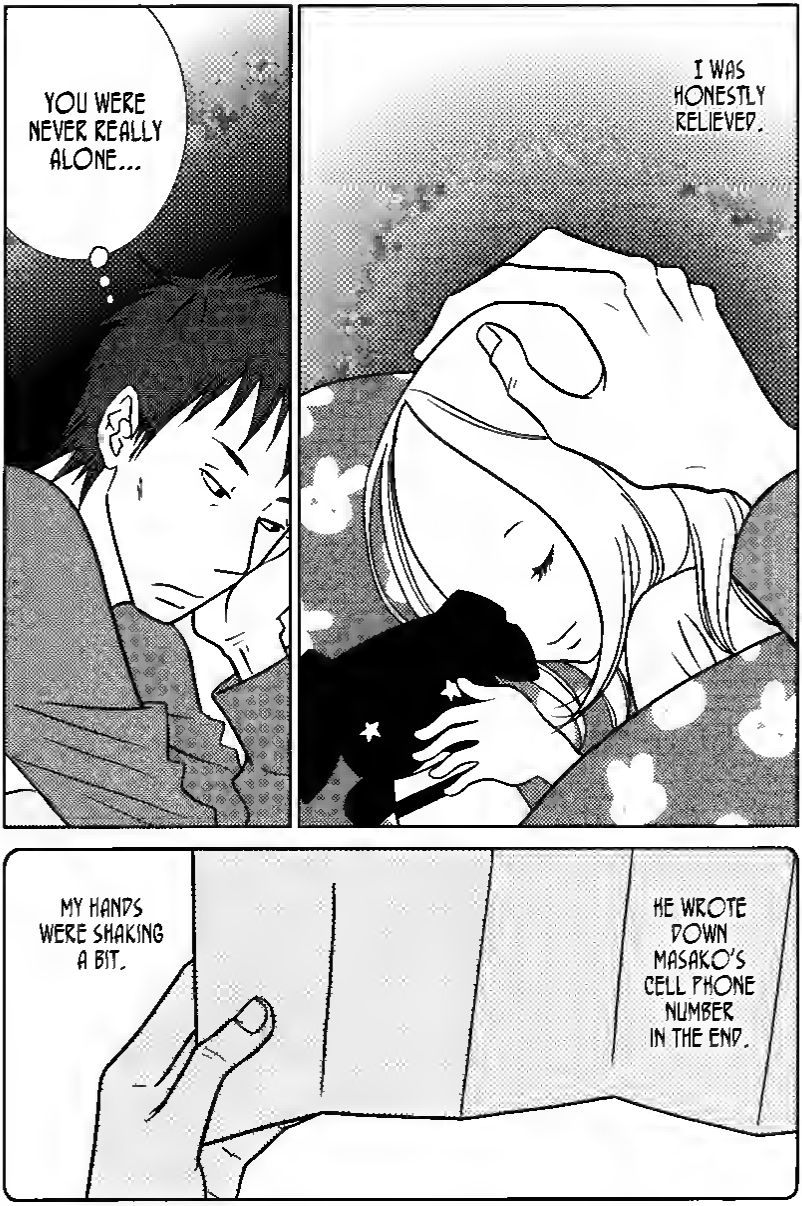
Currently, only Rin is in the family registry.

I won't accept extremely poor relative or living association.

I repeatedly advised about her stay,

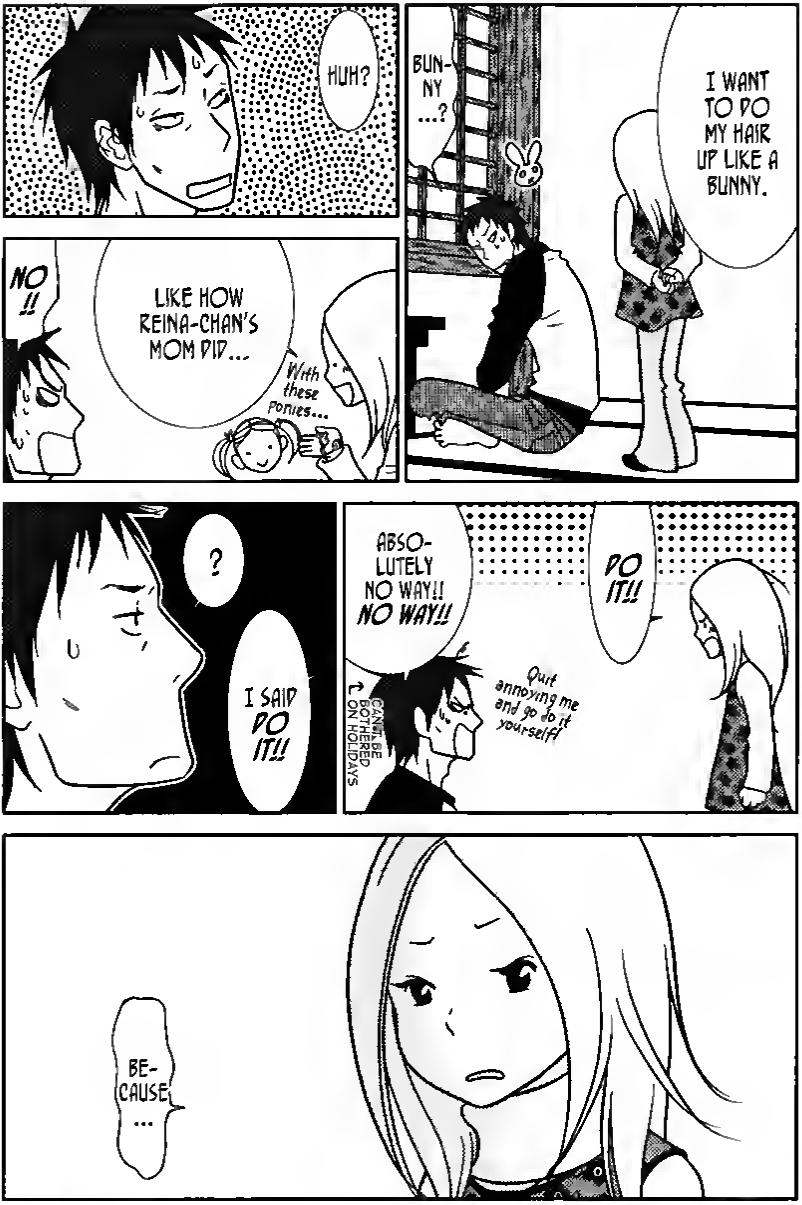
However, Masako is still young and has, perhaps, not quite reached maturity.
Masako, for certain, has love for Rin as her mother.
OR AM I JUST STUPID ...?
WAS HE NOT GOOD WITH WORDS?
I DON'T GET WHAT HE MEANS...
BUT,
IT SEEMS LIKE HE HANDED DOWN TO ONLY ONE.
I MANAGED TO READ THE UNDECIPHERABLE CHARACTERS, BUT I CAN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE OF THEM.
...

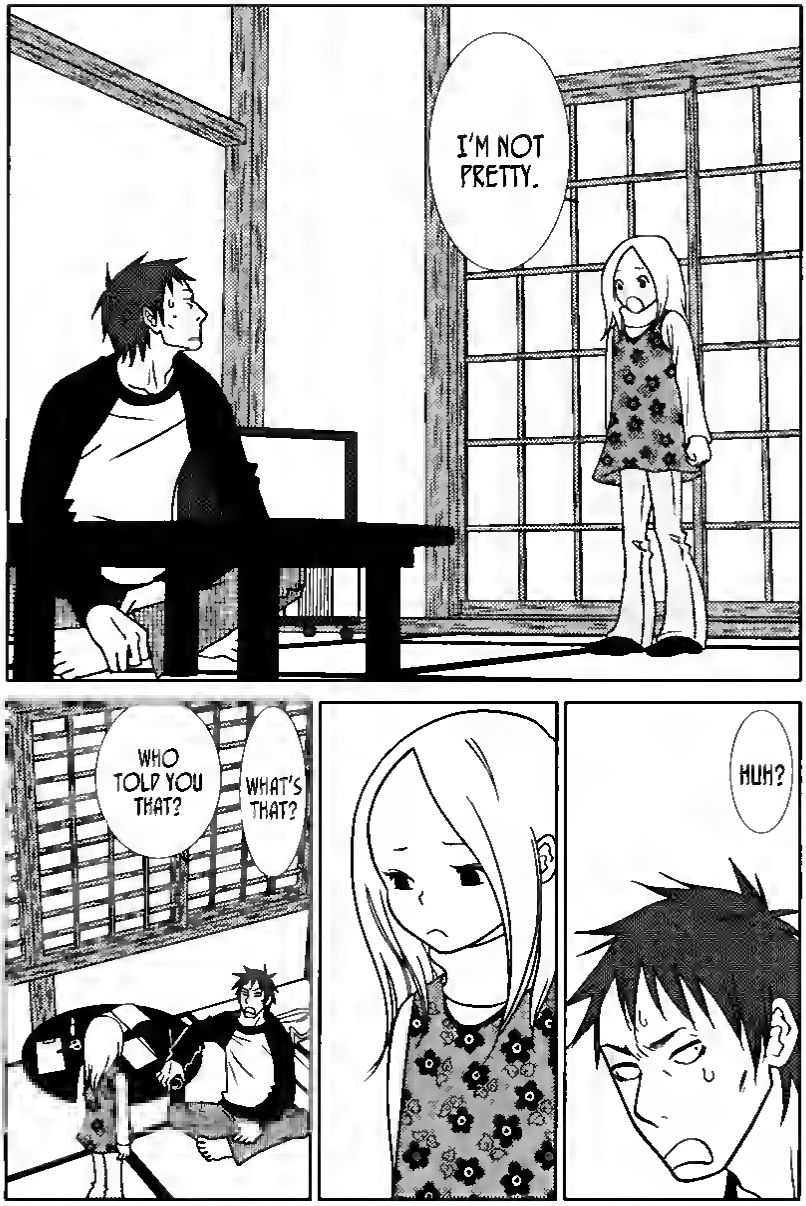
I THINK GRAMPS HAD STRONG FEELINGS FOR RIN AND HER MOTHER.
IT CERTAINLY SEEMED THAT WAY.
WAS IT JUST BECAUSE RIN WAS CUTE AS FAR AS MASAKO WAS CONCERNED ...?
FROM THE DAY RIN WAS BORN TO THE DAY GRAMPS DIED,
HE HAD INTENDED ON WATCHING OVER HER.

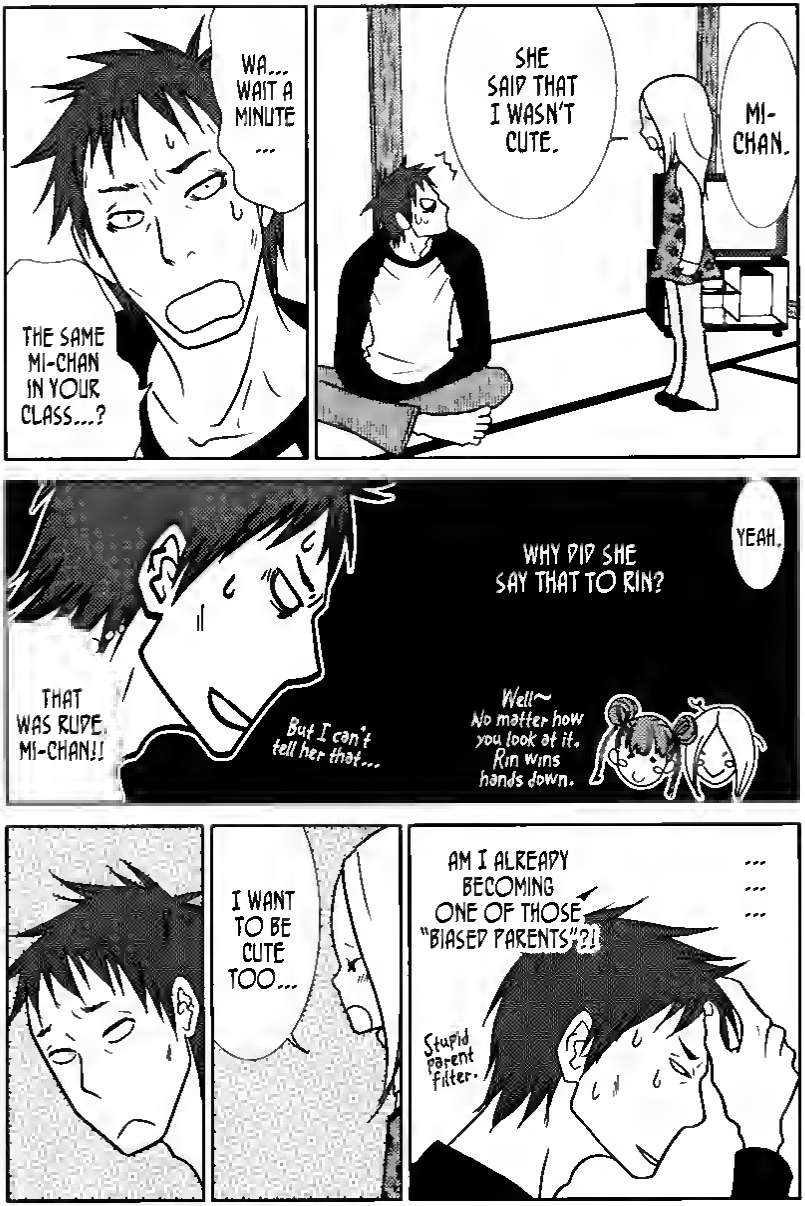

YOU WERE NEVER REALLY ALONE...
I WAS HONESTLY RELIEVED.
MY HANDS WERE SHAKING A BIT.
HE WROTE DOWN MASAKO'S CELL PHONE NUMBER IN THE END.

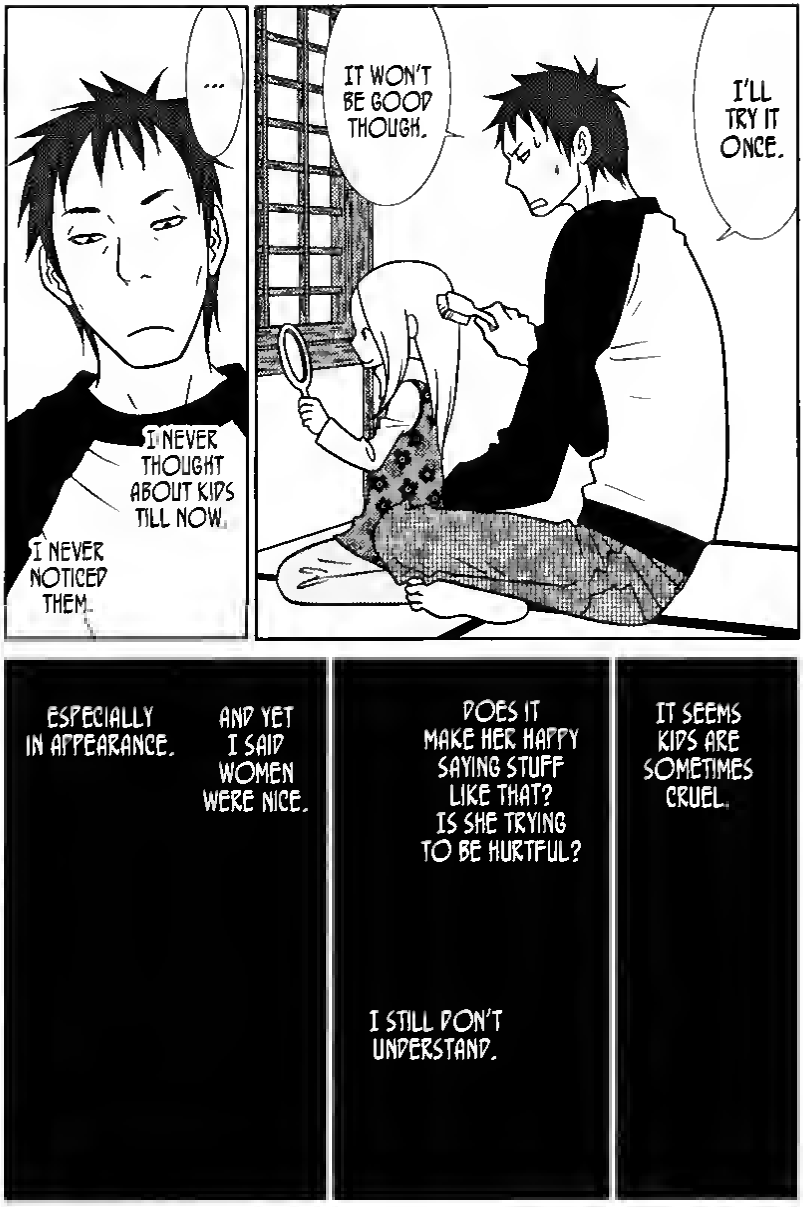
SKRIT SKRIT
Kaga Rin
HOLIDAY
RIN'S ENTRANCE PREPARATIONS WILL PASS UNRELATED TO MY CONFUSION.
UWAH... IT'S STILL CROOKED...
Damn...
A MOTHER WOULD BE HARD PRESSED FOR A BREAK RIGHT ABOUT NOW.
Needs to put her name on the math set game pieces.
dry eyes
I'LL GET TO THE BACKPACK SOON.

I TRIED CALLING MASAKO'S NUMBER ONCE...
...
UM, I WANT...
WHA...
SNAP
WHAT IS IT?
EEK-
DAI-KICHI.


HUH?
BUN-NY ...?
I WANT TO DO MY HAIR UP LIKE A BUNNY.
NO !!
LIKE HOW REINA-CHAN'S MOM DID...
With these ponies...
?
I SAID DO IT!!
ABSO-LUTELY NO WAY!! NO WAY!!
DO IT!!
Quit annoying me and go do it yourself!
CAN'T BE BOTHERED ON HOLIDAYS
BE-CAUSE ...

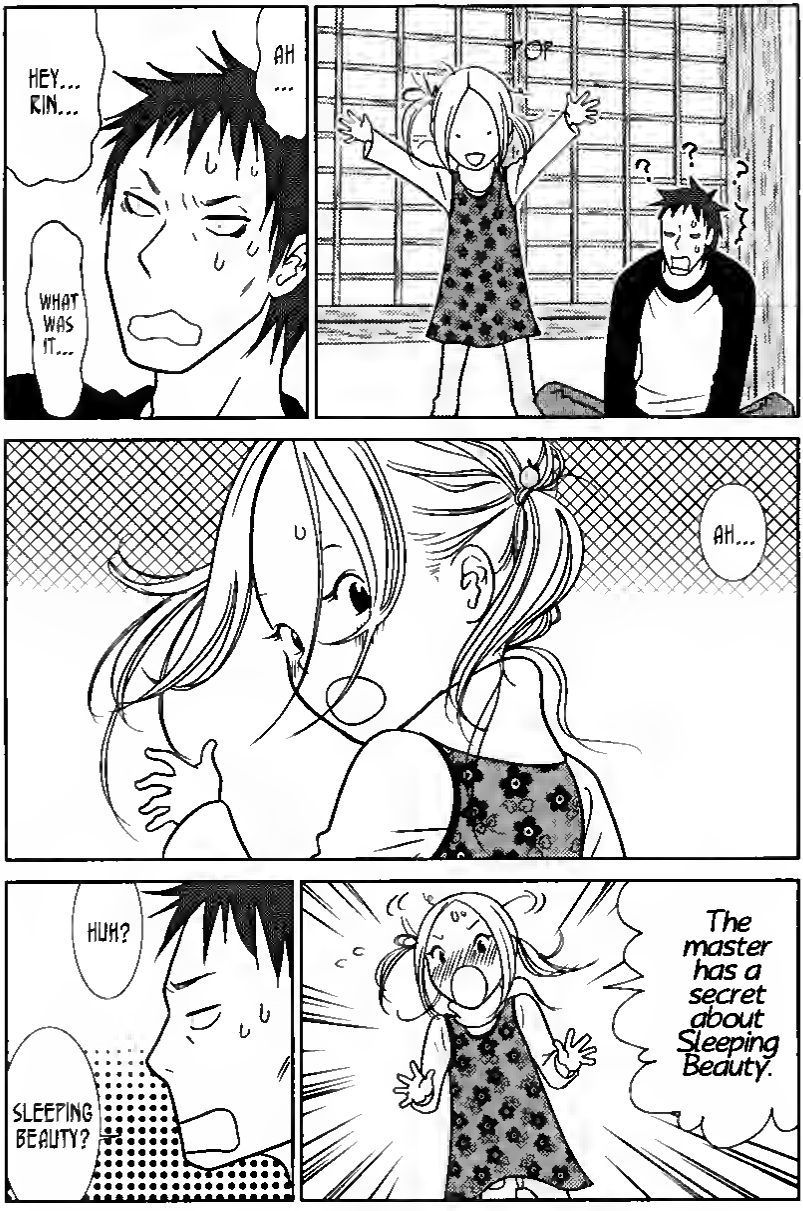

I'M NOT PRETTY.
WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
WHAT'S THAT?
HUH?


WA... WAIT A MINUTE ...
THE SAME MI-CHAN IN YOUR CLASS...?
SHE SAID THAT I WASN'T CUTE.
MI-CHAN.
YEAH.
WHY DID SHE SAY THAT TO RIN?
THAT WAS RUDE, MI-CHAN!!
But I can't tell her that...
Well~ No matter how you look at it, Rin wins hands down.
I WANT TO BE CUTE TOO...
AM I ALREADY BECOMING ONE OF THOSE "BIASED PARENTS"?!
...
...
...
Stupid parent filter.

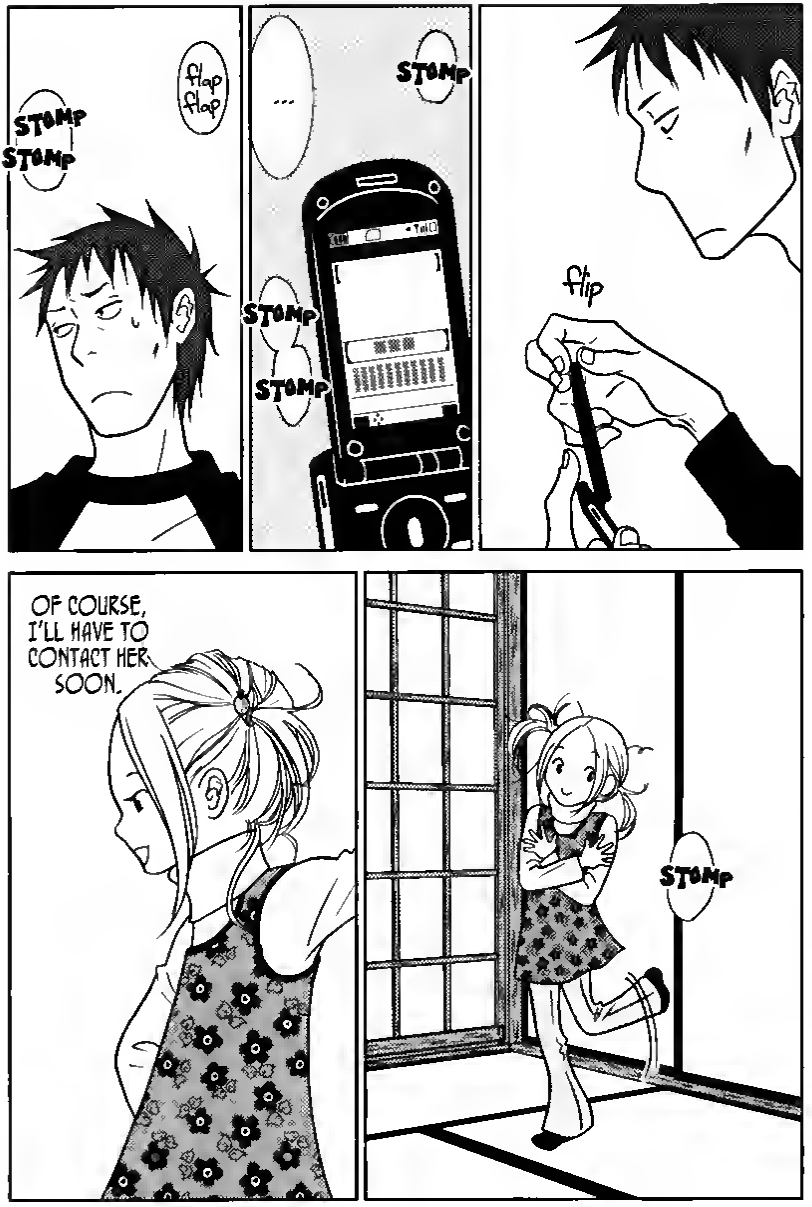

...
I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT KIDS TILL NOW.
I NEVER NOTICED THEM.
IT WON'T BE GOOD THOUGH.
I'LL TRY IT ONCE.
IT SEEMS KIDS ARE SOMETIMES CRUEL.
DOES IT MAKE HER HAPPY SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT? IS SHE TRYING TO BE HURTFUL?
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND.
AND YET I SAID WOMEN WERE NICE.
ESPECIALLY IN APPEARANCE.

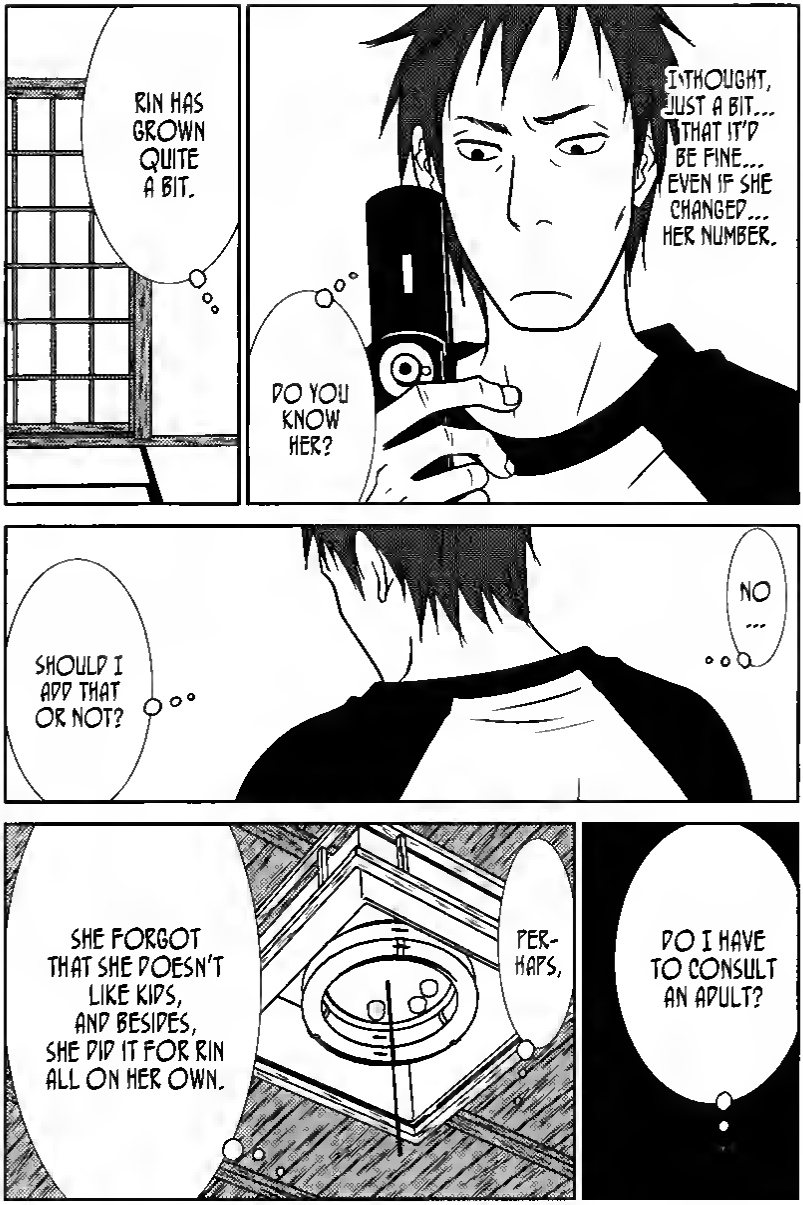
TO HURT ONE PERSON...
RIN'S A SENSIBLE PERSON, SO IT'S ALL THE MORE DISTURBING FOR HER TO LOSE HER HEAD.
EVEN THE LITTLE ONES ARE TROUBLE.
HO-NESTLY, WOMEN.
... ALL... DONE ...

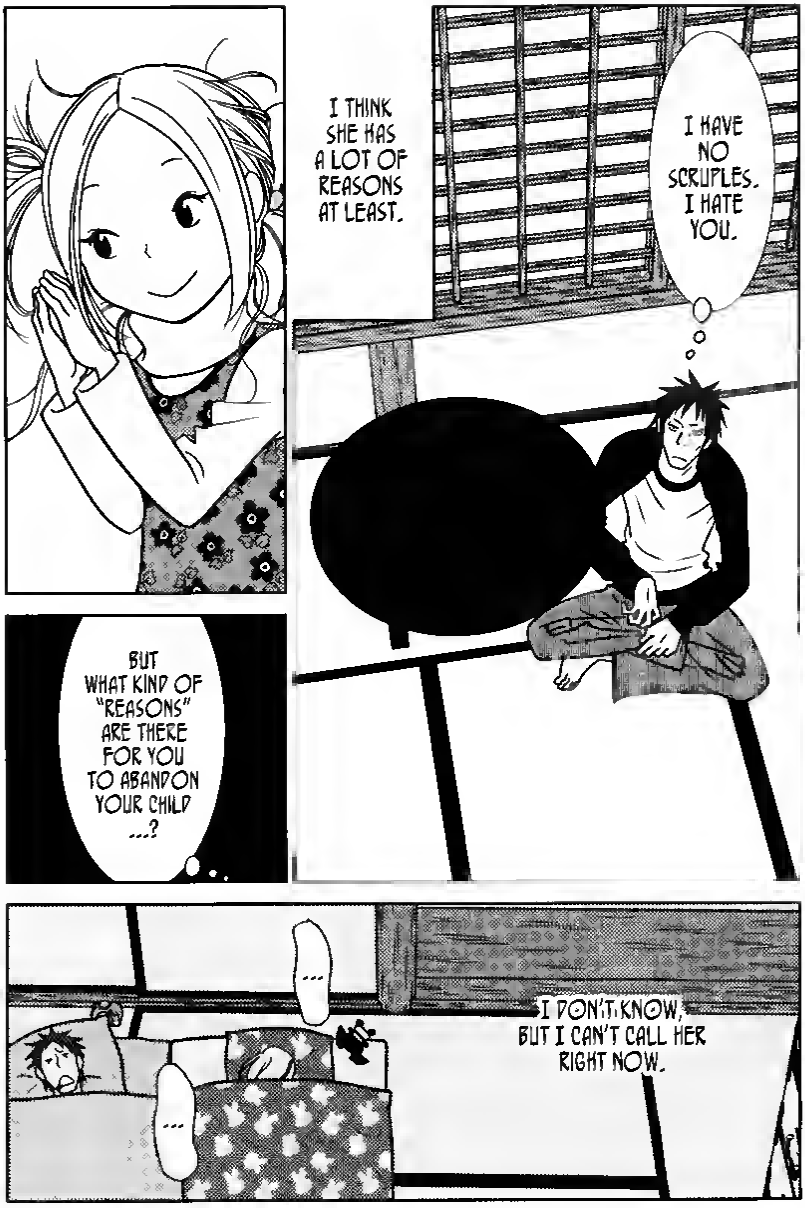
...
She passes as a first generation gang banger...
...
WELL... AS LONG AS SHE'S HAPPY...
SHE CAN'T GO OUT LIKE THAT THOUGH...
THE BACK OF HER HEAD LOOKS FUNKY...
It's not centered.


HEY... RIN...
AH ...
WHAT WAS IT...
TOP
?
?
?
AH...
HUH?
SLEEPING BEAUTY?
The master has a secret about Sleeping Beauty.

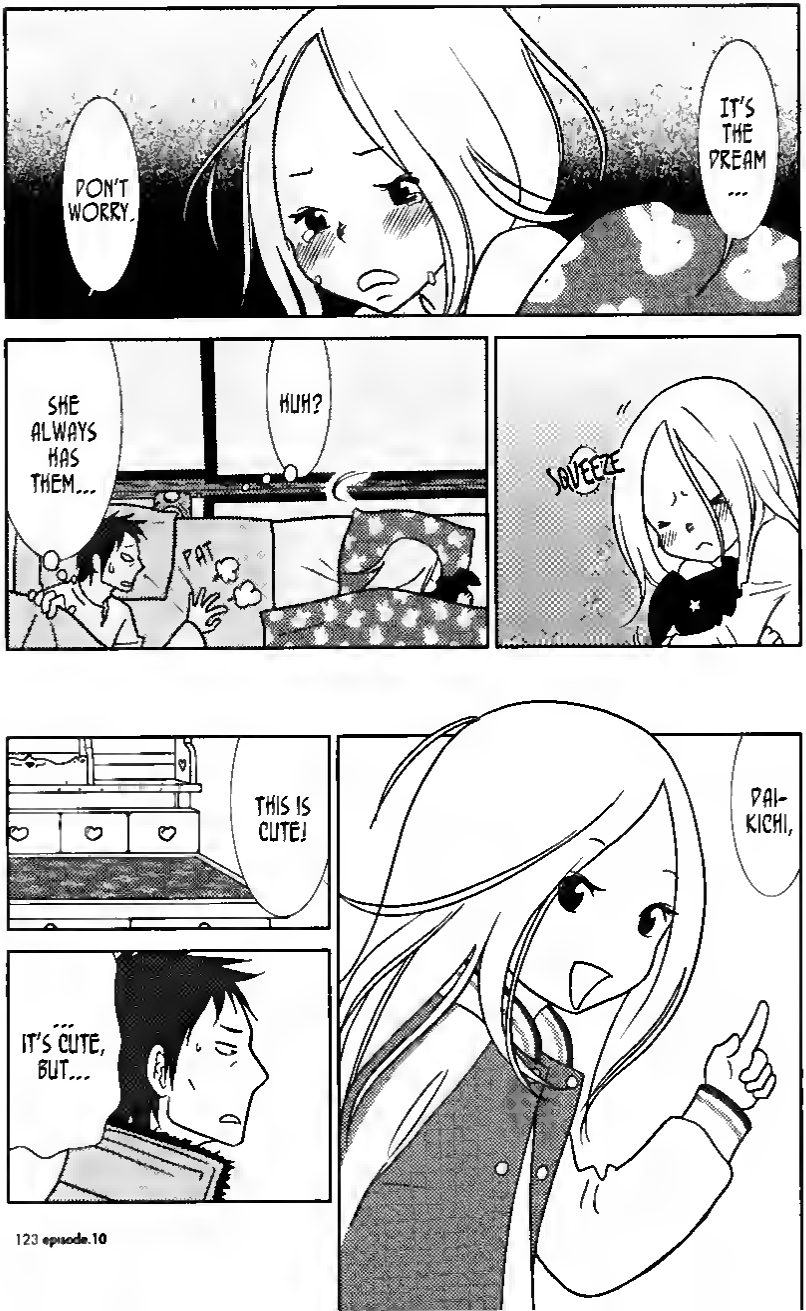
I CAN'T LET ANYONE SEE ME!!
SHUT
...
COME TO THINK OF IT, THE GAMES..
...
WHAT?
PR... PRAC-TICE?
so suddenly
DOES SHE INTEND ON PARTICIPATING WITH THAT HAIRSTYLE...?


STOMP
STOMP
flap
flap
...
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
flip
OF COURSE, I'LL HAVE TO CONTACT HER SOON.
STOMP


RIN HAS GROWN QUITE A BIT.
I THOUGHT, JUST A BIT... THAT IT'D BE FINE... EVEN IF SHE CHANGED... HER NUMBER.
DO YOU KNOW HER?
NO ...
SHOULD I ADD THAT OR NOT?
SHE FORGOT THAT SHE DOESN'T LIKE KIDS, AND BESIDES, SHE DID IT FOR RIN ALL ON HER OWN.
PER-HAPS,
DO I HAVE TO CONSULT AN ADULT?

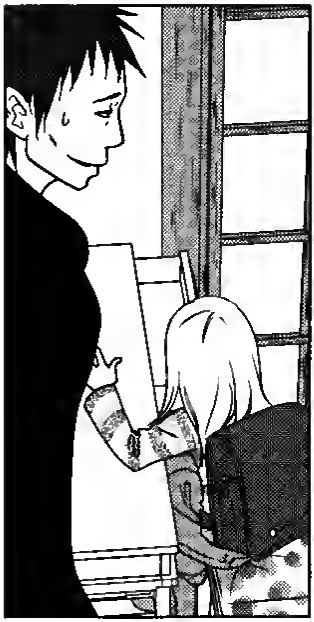

I THINK SHE HAS A LOT OF REASONS AT LEAST.
I HAVE NO SCRUPLES. I HATE YOU.
BUT WHAT KIND OF "REASONS" ARE THERE FOR YOU TO ABANDON YOUR CHILD ...?
...
...
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I CAN'T CALL HER RIGHT NOW.

Uh...
HIC
HIC
Uhm...
HIC
Uhh...
WAKE UP.
shake shake
HEY, RIN.
HIC
HM!
SHE HAS A LOT OF NIGHTMARES.
PLOP
...


IT'S THE DREAM ...
DON'T WORRY.
HUH?
SHE ALWAYS HAS THEM...
PAT
SQUEEZE
THIS IS CUTE!
DAI-KICHI,
...IT'S CUTE, BUT...

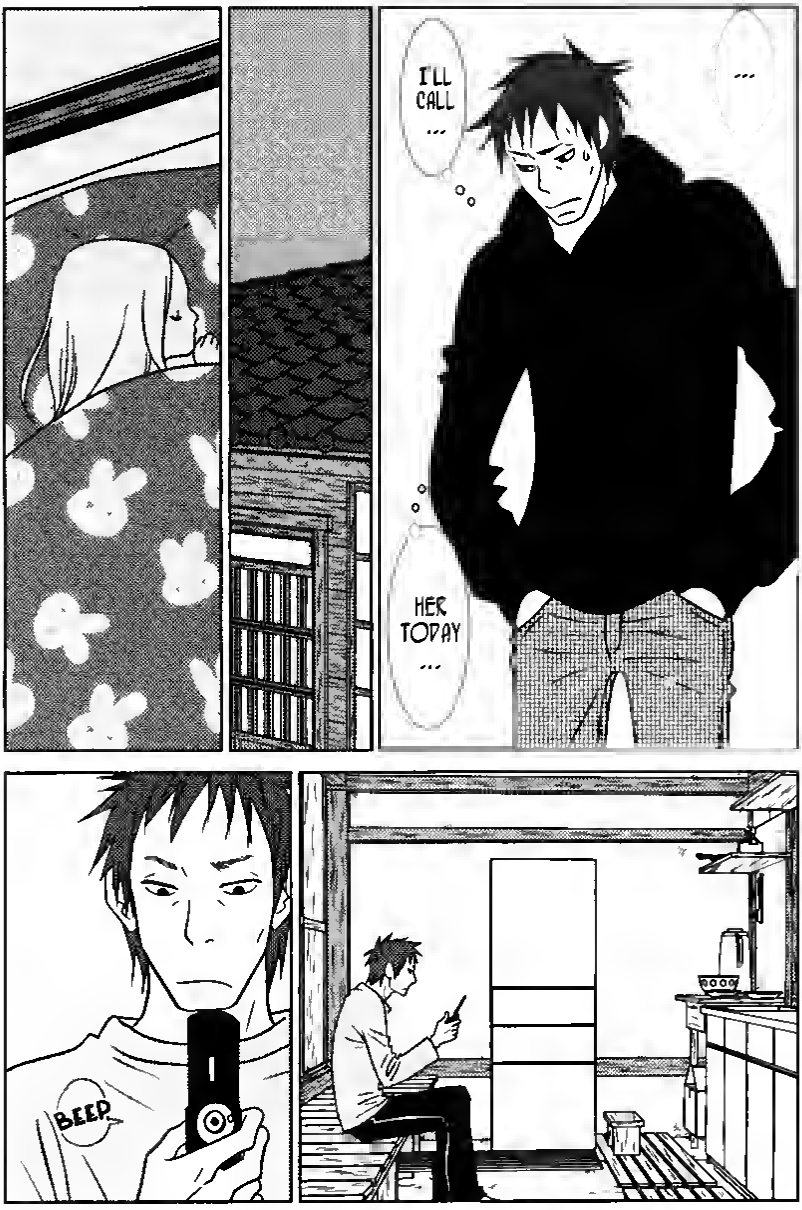
HMM ...
AH... THAT'S RIGHT.
WOULD YOU LIKE A PERSON WHO'S MORE LIKE AN OLDER SISTER?
HOW ABOUT... A SIMPLER ONE LIKE THIS...?
BUT IT'S KIND OF EXPENSIVE.
I want an older sister person!!
Yeah!
GOOD ...!!
daydreamer eyes
A SISTER ...

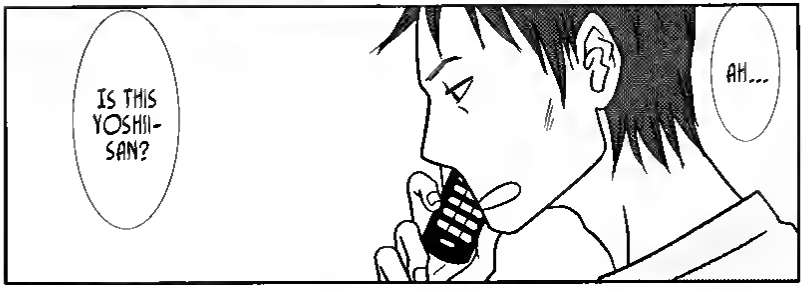
YOU'RE WEARING YOUR BACKPACK AGAIN??
No money today.
SHE CHOSE TO USE THE EXPENSIVE BACKPACK AND DESK.
WHY DOES SHE WEAR THE BACKPACK WHILE SITTING THERE...?
It's a normal situation, I guess.
SHE CAN USE THE DESK ALL THE WAY THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL...

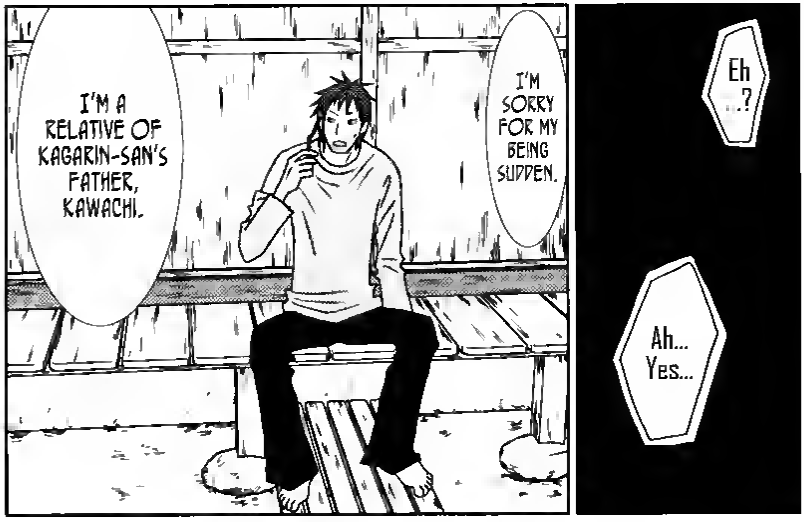


WHETHER OR NOT... I COULD SEE IT...
...

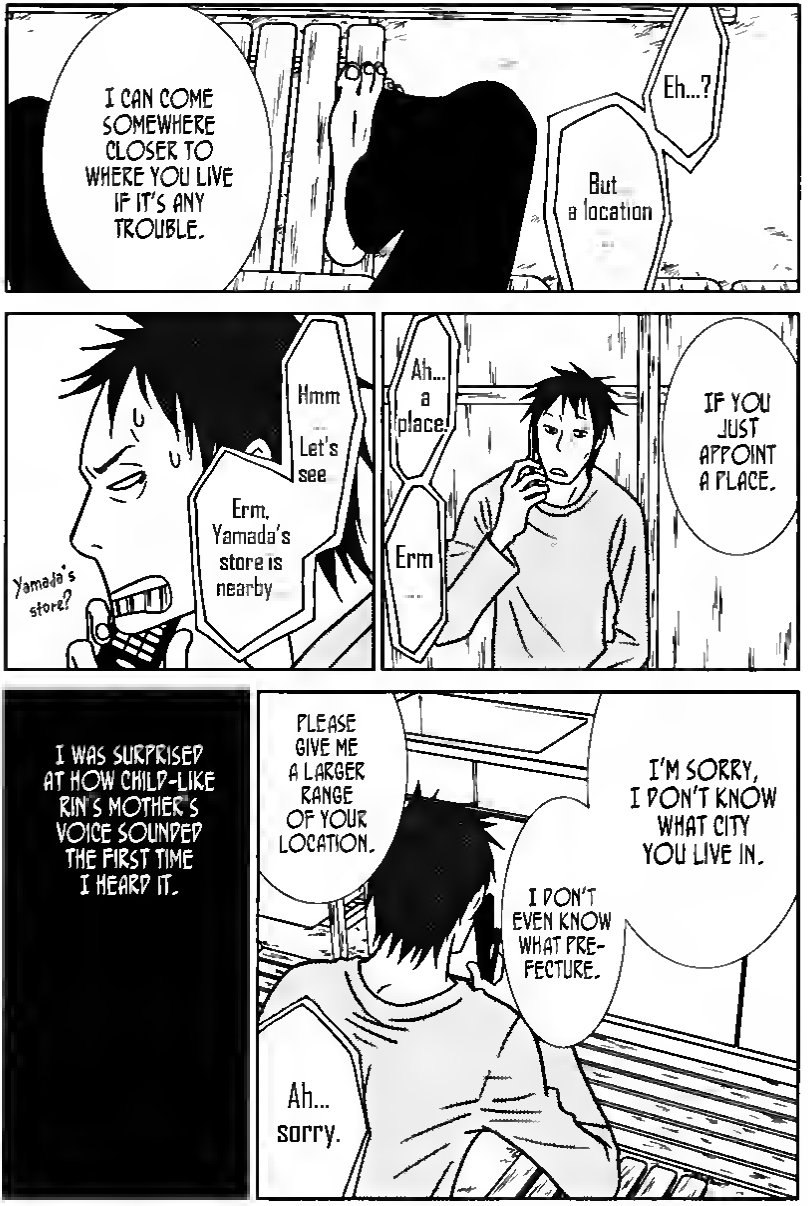
WHETHER OR NOT I COULD SEE THE SITUATION AT THAT TIME, I DIDN'T KNOW.


I'LL CALL ...
...
HER TODAY ...
BEEP


IS THIS YOSHII-SAN?
AH...

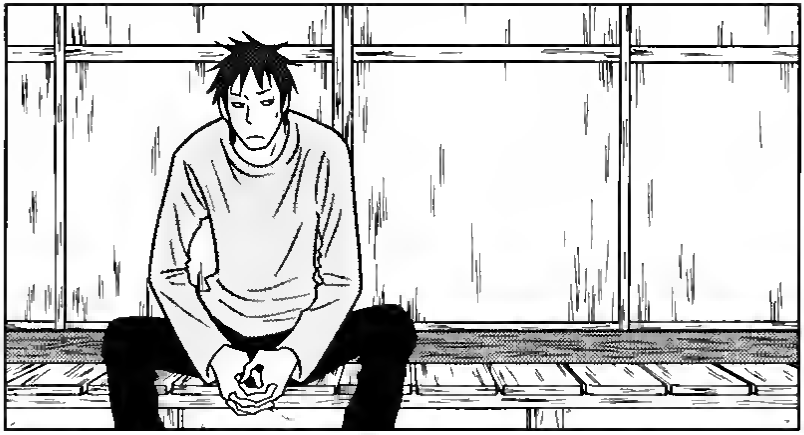

I'M A RELATIVE OF KAGARIN-SAN'S FATHER, KAWACHI.
I'M SORRY FOR MY BEING SUDDEN.
Eh ..?
Ah... Yes...

RIN-SAN... AND I ARE LIVING TOGETHER RIGHT NOW.
Ah...
Eh...?
Erm
Ah... Yes...
YOU?!
...Eh? M-Me ...?
UM.. YOU ARE RIN'S MOTHER... YOSH!! MASAKO-SAN... ARE YOU NOT?
Uh... um...
OF COURSE, I WON'T BRING RIN ALONG.
DO YOU HAVE ANY FREE TIME?
I NEED TO MEET YOU IN PERSON. I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT RIN.
sigh


I CAN COME SOMEWHERE CLOSER TO WHERE YOU LIVE IF IT'S ANY TROUBLE.
Eh...?
But a location
Hmm... Let's see
Erm, Yamada's store is nearby
Yamada's store?
Ah... a place.
Erm...
IF YOU JUST APPOINT A PLACE.
I WAS SURPRISED AT HOW CHILD-LIKE RIN'S MOTHER'S VOICE SOUNDED THE FIRST TIME I HEARD IT.
PLEASE GIVE ME A LARGER RANGE OF YOUR LOCATION.
I'M SORRY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT CITY YOU LIVE IN.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT PREFECTURE.
Ah... sorry.

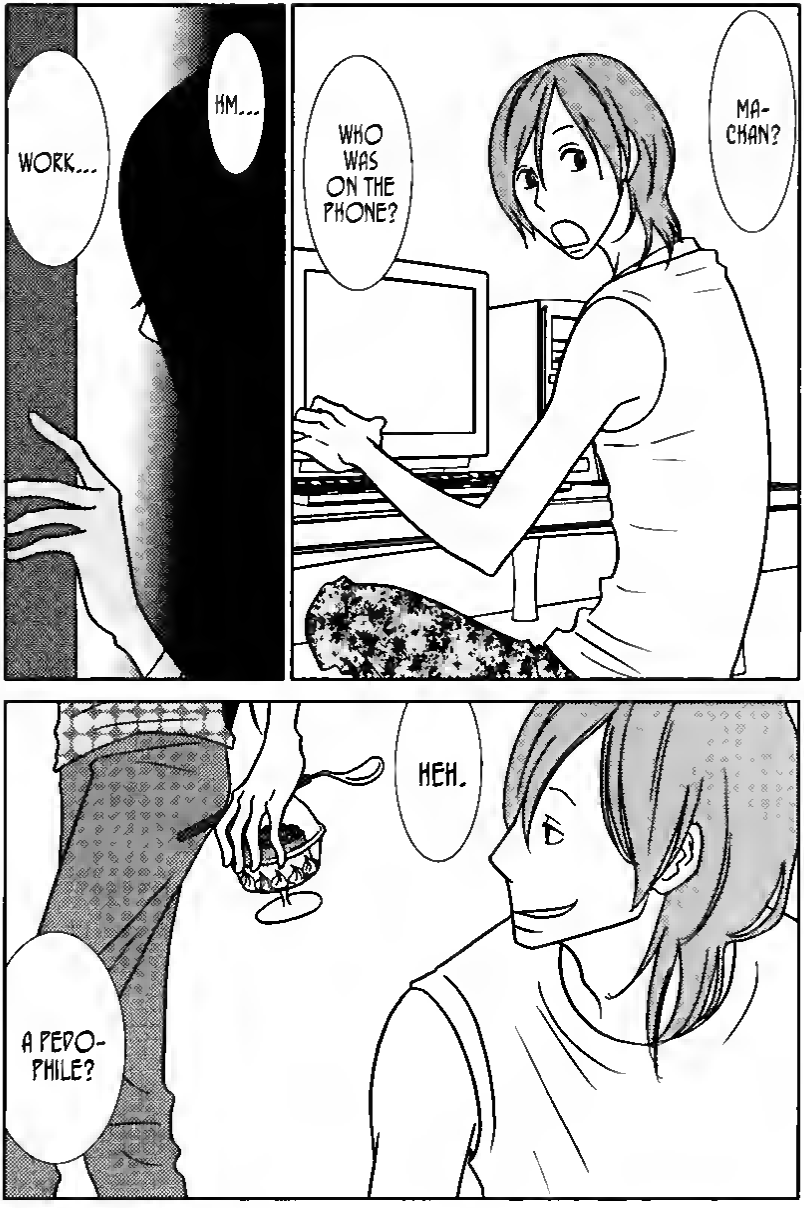
OKAY...
MAN, IT SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S THE SAME AGE AS I AM.
I UNDERSTAND.
SO, TWO... IN THE AFTERNOON IS OKAY?
IS IT ODD THAT HER VOICE IS SHAKY...?
Erm, yes... it's fine.
Could you come at night?
It's a bit early for the afternoon...
Ah... Two...?
I DID TELL YOU THAT RIN AND I WERE LIVING TOGETHER, RIGHT?
...

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN?
I HAVE RIN, SO I CAN'T GO OUT AT NIGHT.
IS THIS WOMAN... REALLY OKAY...?
IT IS HER DAUGHTER... RIGHT?
Ah...
I'M CALLING TO SET UP A SIMPLE CHAT.
Erm...
WELL, NEXT SATURDAY AT TWO ...?
TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH RIN'S MOTHER.
OKAY ...
SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.



I WAS FEELING TERRIBLE.
BUT,

MA-CHAN?


MA-CHAN?
WHO WAS ON THE PHONE?
HM...
WORK...
HEH.
A PEDO-PHILE?

usagi drop

J-SIS PRESENTS

Drop ch. 10

providers:

ega Volt's D-

S

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We need Japonese and Koreon
translators for some up coming
projects this year. Inquire at
jsis.team@gmail.com or PM
Roniz in the forums or in IRC

episode.11

うさぎドロップ

Yumi Unita
http://homepage2.nifty.com/unita/

usagi drop

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気になる巻頭カラー

うさぎドロップ

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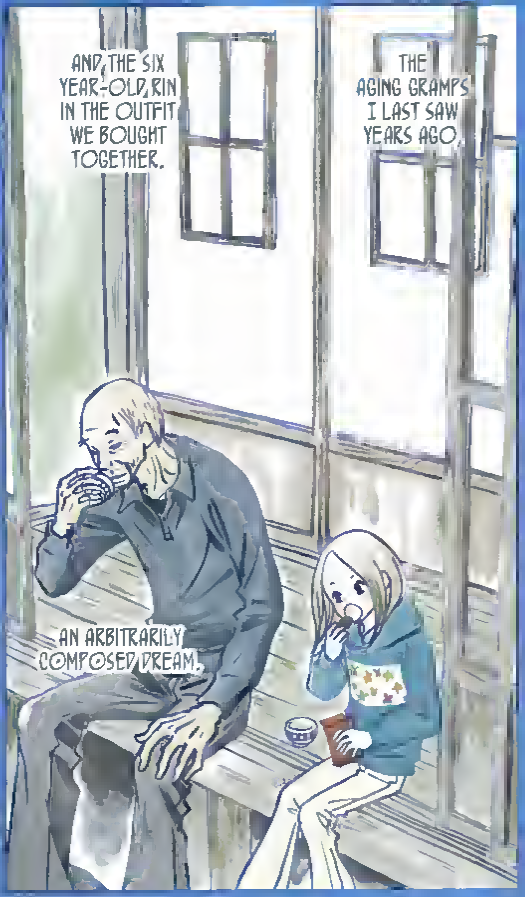
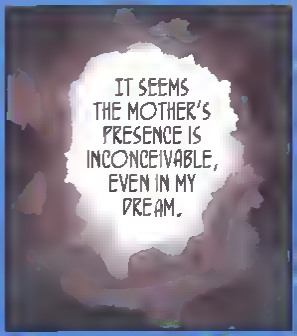


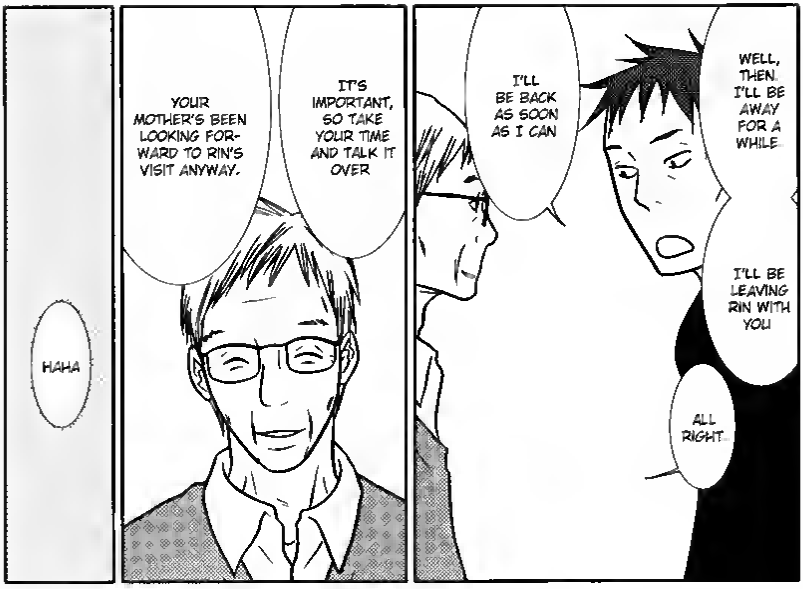


宇仁田ゆみ

A DREAM ABOUT RIN AND GRAMPS.
SOMETIMES, I HAVE THIS DREAM.
AND IN THIS DREAM, THE MOTHER IS NOWHERE IN SIGHT.
AND THE SIX YEAR-OLD RIN IN THE OUTFIT WE BOUGHT TOGETHER.
THE AGING GRAMPS I LAST SAW 7 YEARS AGO.
AN ARBITRARILY COMPOSED DREAM.
IT SEEMS THE MOTHER'S PRESENCE IS INCONCEIVABLE, EVEN IN MY DREAM.

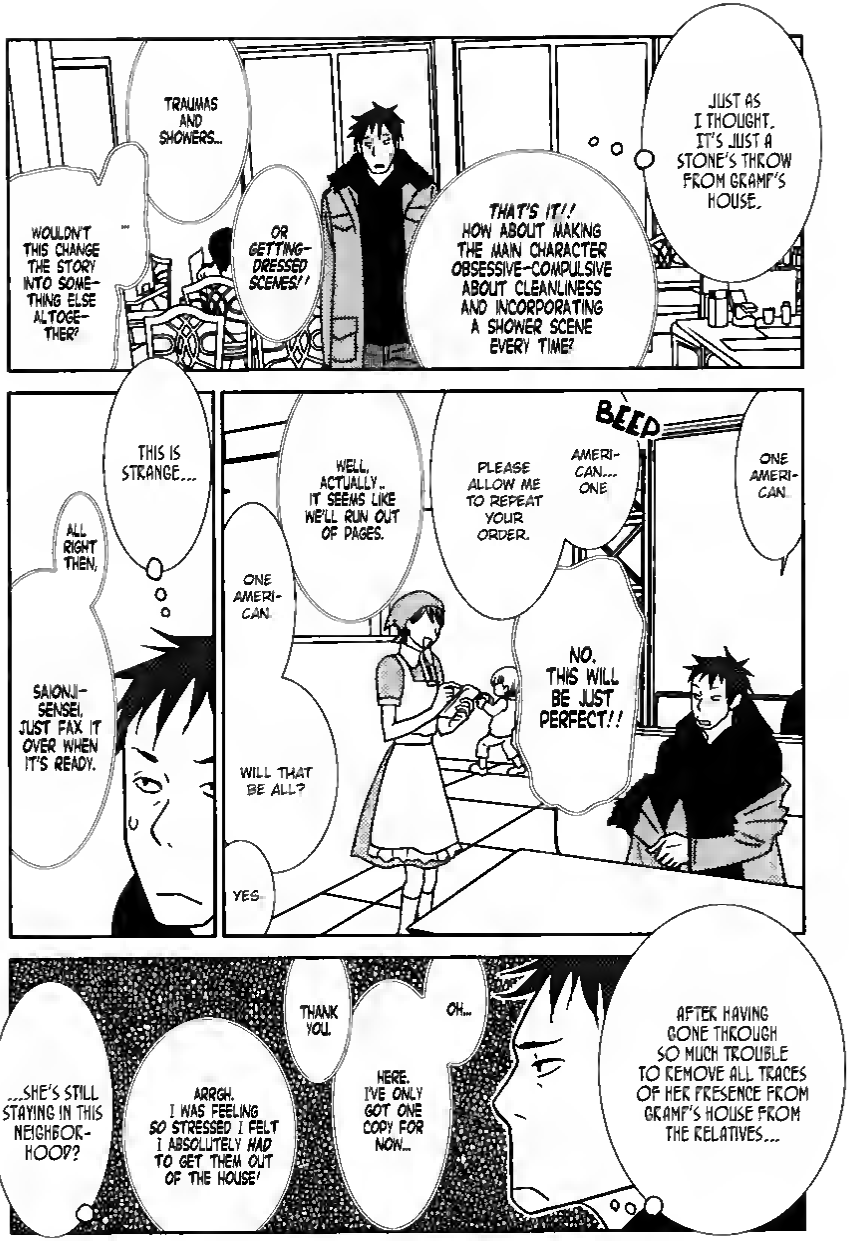
WOW~
HOW CUTE..
OF COURSE NOT!!
I EMBROIDERED ALL OF THEM!
YOU GO, MOM!
THEY SELL THIS SORT OF FABRIC?
WOW, MOM YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD AGAIN!

WHEN YOU GROW A LITTLE OLDER, I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO DO IT, TOO!
WOW! WOW!!!
YOU'RE AMAZING~
REALLY?
HUH?
DID YOU MAKE THESE FLOWERS, TOO, GRANDMA?
THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S CALLED EMBROIDERY
.. THANKS, GRANDMA
YOU'RE MOST WEL-COME!
AH
OH, RIN? HAVE YOU ALREADY SAID "THANK YOU"?


HAHA
YOUR MOTHER'S BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO RIN'S VISIT ANYWAY.
IT'S IMPORTANT, SO TAKE YOUR TIME AND TALK IT OVER
I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN
WELL, THEN. I'LL BE AWAY FOR A WHILE
I'LL BE LEAVING RIN WITH YOU
ALL RIGHT.

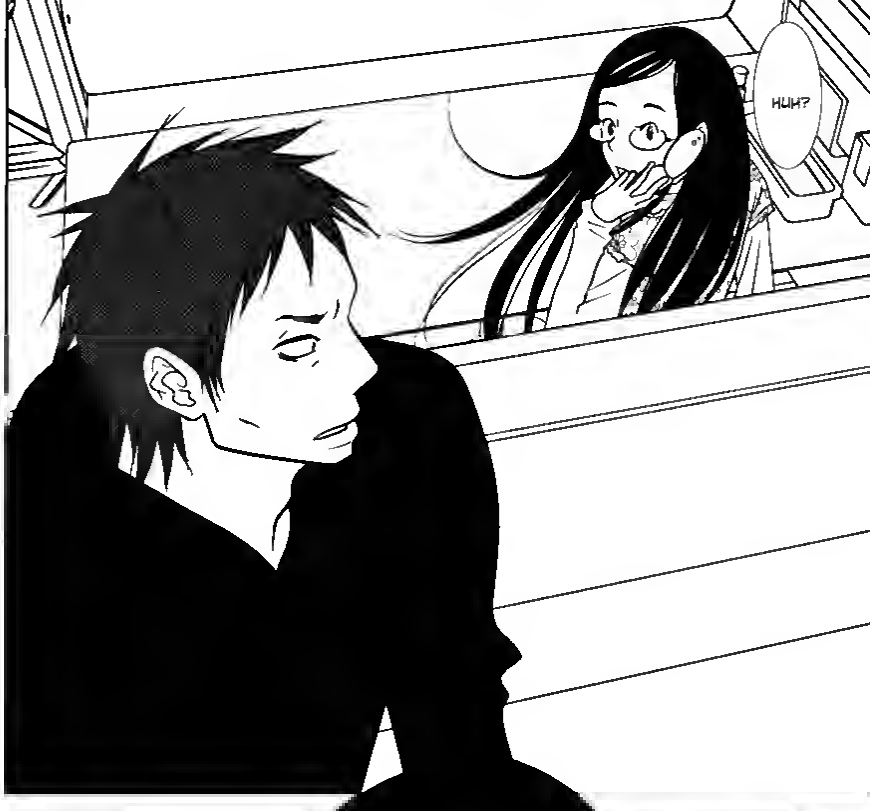
THE LOCATION OF THIS FAMILY RESTAURANT...
HMM... ?

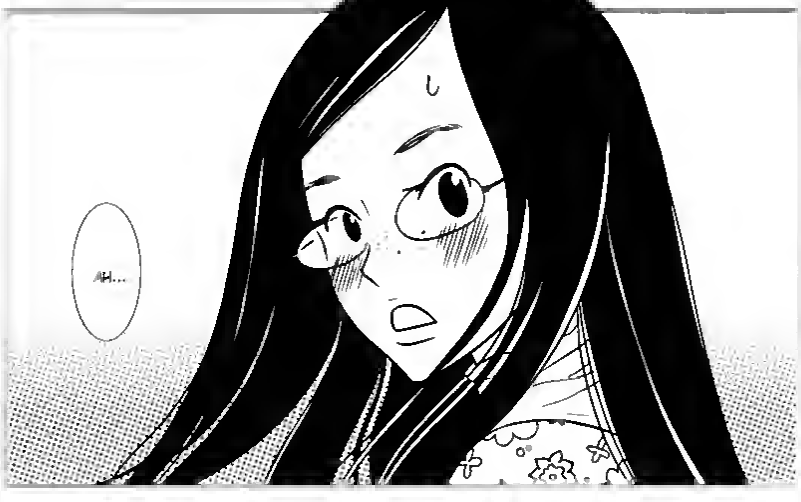
THAT'S WEIRD...
THIS SEEMS EXTREMELY CLOSE TO GRAMP'S HOUSE...
Welcome!!!
レストラン
RESTAURANT
ガブト
OPEN
9:00AM-8:00PM
TABLE FOR ONE?
I'M EXPECTING SOMEONE ELSE
THIS WAY, PLEASE
AND, THEN, WE'LL GIVE EACH CHARACTER TWO TO THREE TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES...
UH HUH THAT'S BRILLIANT, SAIONJI-SENSEI!! YOU'RE JUST AS I EXPECTED
I-ISN'T THAT OVER-DOING IT?
WATCH IT! YOU'RE SPILLING IT!

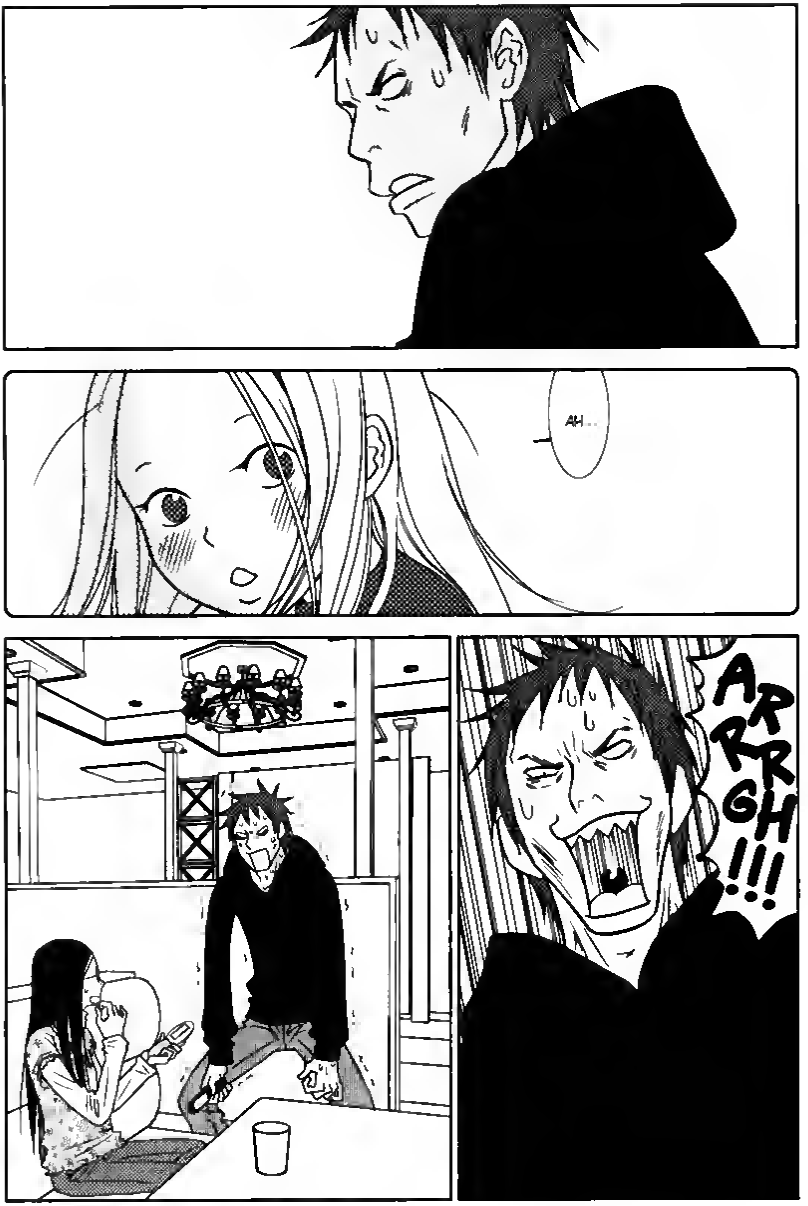

JUST AS I THOUGHT. IT'S JUST A STONE'S THROW FROM GRAMP'S HOUSE.
THAT'S IT!! HOW ABOUT MAKING THE MAIN CHARACTER OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE ABOUT CLEANLINESS AND INCORPORATING A SHOWER SCENE EVERY TIME?
TRAUMAS AND SHOWERS...
OR GETTING-DRESSED SCENES!!
WOULDN'T THIS CHANGE THE STORY INTO SOME-THING ELSE ALTOGE-THER?
ONE AMERI-CAN.
BEEP
AMERI-CAN... ONE
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO REPEAT YOUR ORDER.
NO. THIS WILL BE JUST PERFECT!!
WELL, ACTUALLY.. IT SEEMS LIKE WE'LL RUN OUT OF PAGES.
ONE AMERI-CAN.
WILL THAT BE ALL?
YES.
THIS IS STRANGE...
ALL RIGHT THEN,
SAION..I-SENSEI, JUST FAX IT OVER WHEN IT'S READY.
AFTER HAVING GONE THROUGH SO MUCH TROUBLE TO REMOVE ALL TRACES OF HER PRESENCE FROM GRAMP'S HOUSE FROM THE RELATIVES...
OH...
THANK YOU.
HERE. I'VE ONLY GOT ONE COPY FOR NOW...
ARRGH. I WAS FEELING SO STRESSED I FELT I ABSOLUTELY HAD TO GET THEM OUT OF THE HOUSE!
...SHE'S STILL STAYING IN THIS NEIGHBOR-HOOD?

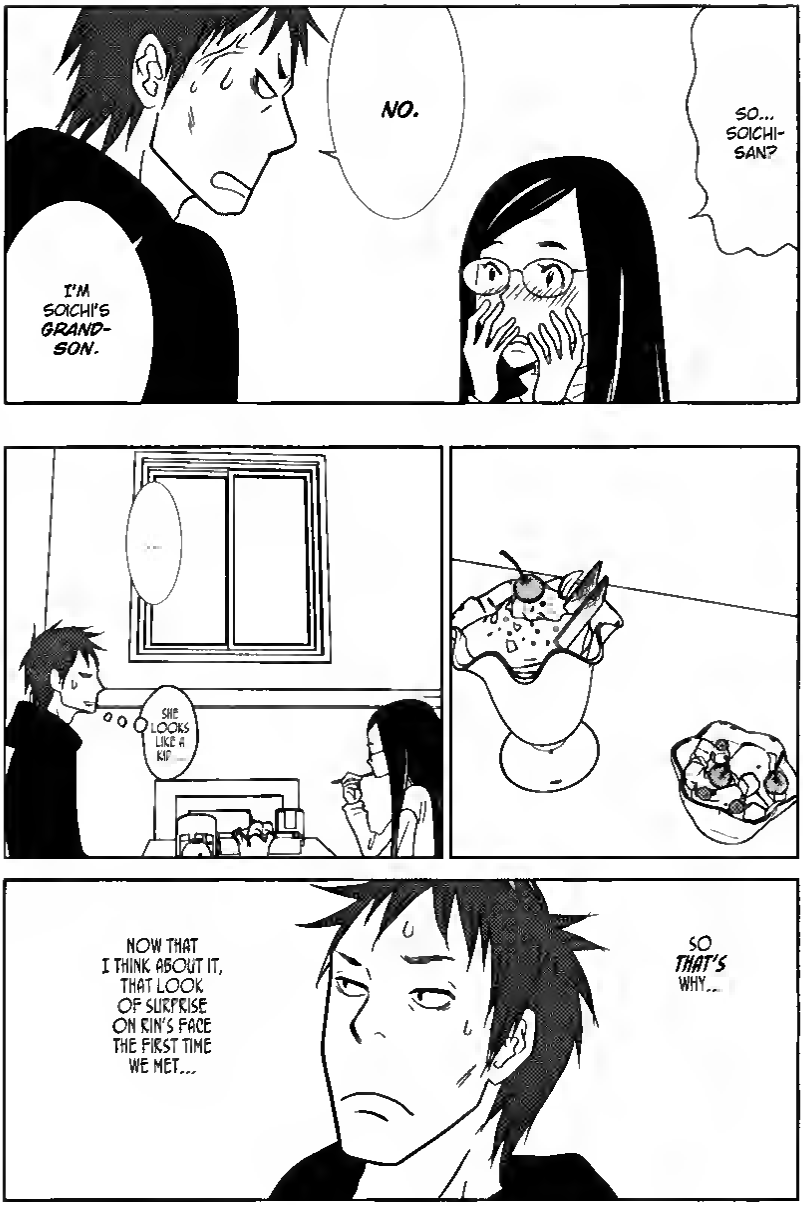
WELL, THEN, SAIONJI-SENSEI, I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU.
THANK YOU FOR TODAY.
...EVEN IF I HAD TO COME UP WITH AN EXCUSE, YOU KNOW?
AH! THAT FEELING! YEAH, TELL ME ABOUT IT!
IF I WERE HER, I'D MOVE AS FAR AWAY FROM HERE AS POSSIBLE...
I'D FLEE THIS PLACE.
HOW CARELESS OF HER...
MOMMY! I NEED TO PEE!!

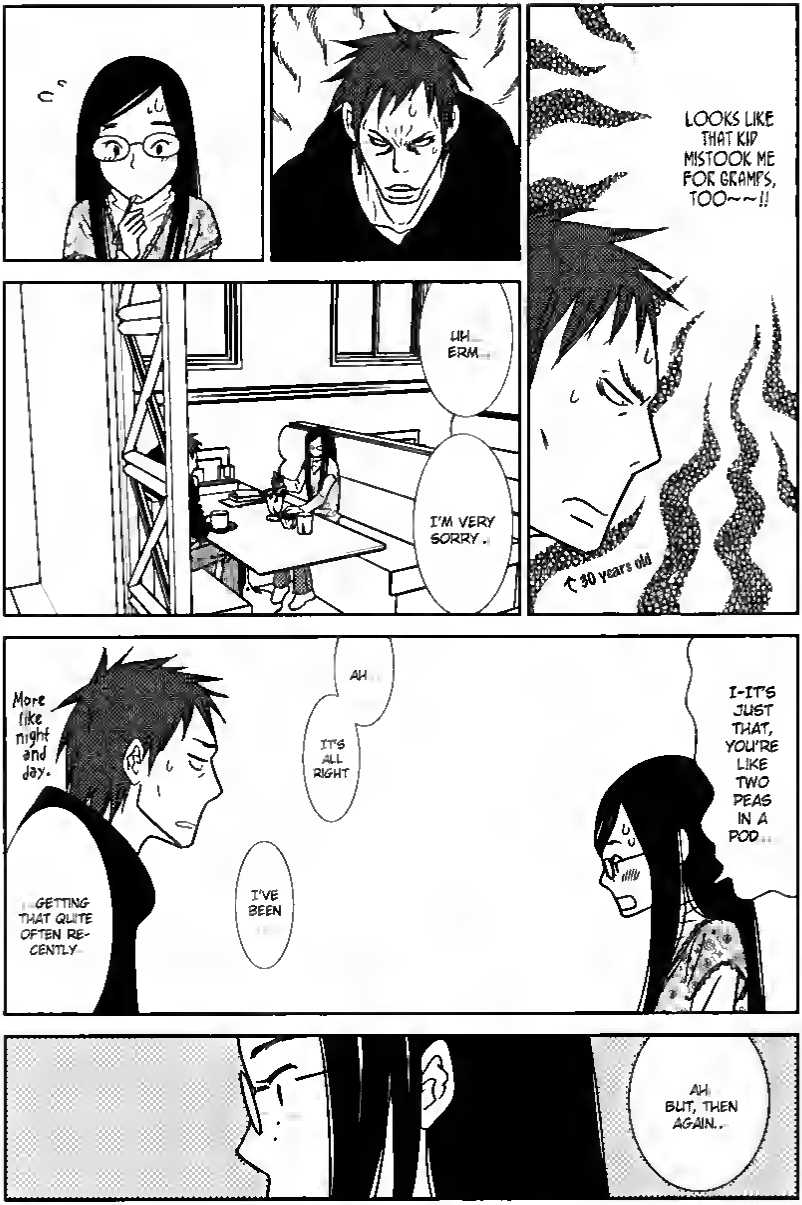
OH, HI. WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
SHE'S HERE.
FLIP
YOSHII MASAKO
!!!
OH, I'M ALREADY AT THE RESTAURANT.


HUH?


AH...


AH...
ARRRGH!!!


I'M SOICHI'S GRAND-SON.
NO.
SO... SOICHI-SAN?
SHE LOOKS LIKE A KID...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THAT LOOK OF SURPRISE ON RIN'S FACE THE FIRST TIME WE MET...
SO THAT'S WHY...


LOOKS LIKE THAT KID MISTOOK ME FOR GRAMPS, TOO~~!!
30 years old
UH... ERM...
I'M VERY SORRY.
I-IT'S JUST THAT, YOU'RE LIKE TWO PEAS IN A POD...
AH...
IT'S ALL RIGHT
I'VE BEEN
More like night and day.
...GETTING THAT QUITE OFTEN RECENTLY...
AH. BUT, THEN AGAIN..

OH, WOW! THAT WAS A SLAP IN THE FACE!!
And the perpetrator is still clueless.
YEAH.
SOICHI-SAN SEEMS LIKE A NICER PERSON, SOMEHOW...
OH, YEAH
I BROUGHT A PHOTO-GRAPH OF RIN.
...

I DECIDED TO START OFF BY SHOWING RIN'S PHOTO WITHOUT PROVIDING ANY INFORMATION ABOUT HER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES...
HERE IT IS
OH...
...AND TRY AND OBSERVE MASAKO-SAN'S REACTION.
THANK YOU...
HONESTLY, DESPICABLE AS IT MAY SOUND, I'M HOPING SHE'LL ABSOLUTELY FREAK OUT.
THAT WAS TAKEN AFTER SHE JOINED PRESCHOOL THIS YEAR
THAT'S THE RICE CAKE MAKING FESTIVAL, YOU SEE.
YET...
OH!
SHE'S...
SHE HAS BECOME QUITE THE LADY...

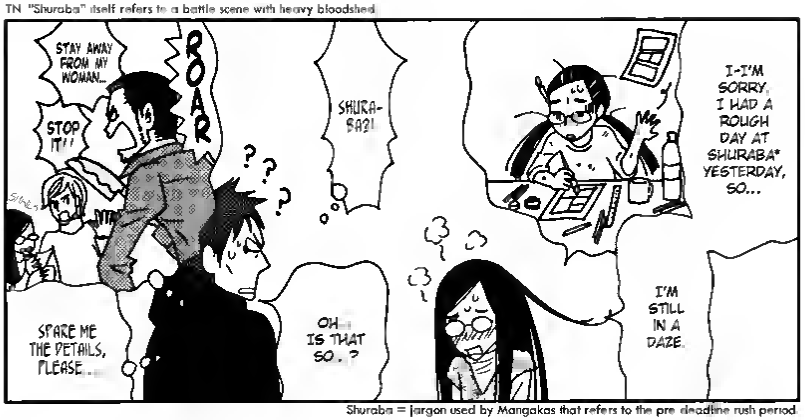
SHE LOOKS AS IF SHE'D JUST BEEN SHOWN A PHOTO OF A RELATIVE'S KID WHOM SHE HASN'T SEEN IN A WHILE.
I DON'T KNOW IF A SCREW'S LOOSE SOMEWHERE OR WHAT,
BUT SHE'S NOT SHOWING ANY SIGN OF LOSING HER COMPOSURE.
THAT'S ...?
!!

Cover (top): Ichigo Kurunun Seikinji Mezon Cover (bottom): Mirukurul

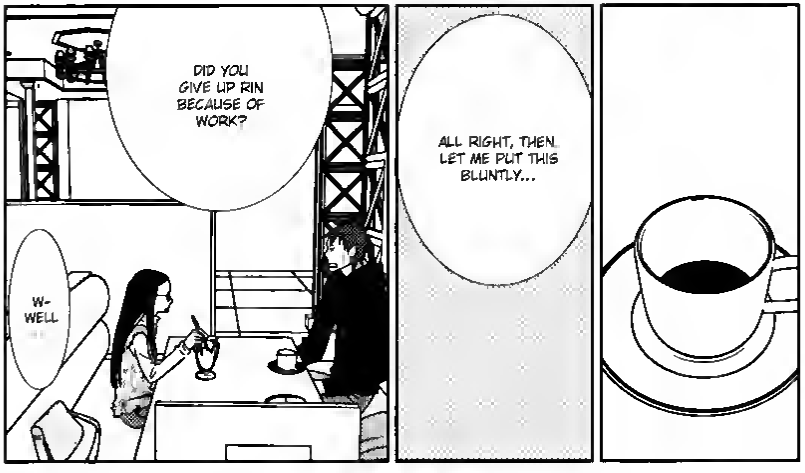
HEY
THE PERSON WHO WAS ADDRESSED AS "SENSEI" OR SOMETHING JUST NOW...!!
"WELL, THEN, SAIONJI-SENSEI, I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU."
FLUSTERED
FLUSTERED
Y-YOU YOU SAW IT?
HUH..?! IT WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME..
SHE'S A MANGAKA ?!?!
THAT'S AN ALIAS FOR WORK.
BUT THE NAME...
maron?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN A MANGAKA IN THE FLESH!!!
shuggle
RUSTLE RUSTLE
click

TN "Maron" = chestnut in Japanese

TN: "Shuraba" itself refers to a battle scene with heavy bloodshed.


STAY AWAY FROM MY WOMAN...
STOP IT!!
ROAR
SHURA-BA?!
I-I'M SORRY, I HAD A ROUGH DAY AT SHURABA* YESTERDAY, SO...
SPARE ME THE DETAILS, PLEASE...
OH... IS THAT SO..?
I'M STILL IN A DAZE.

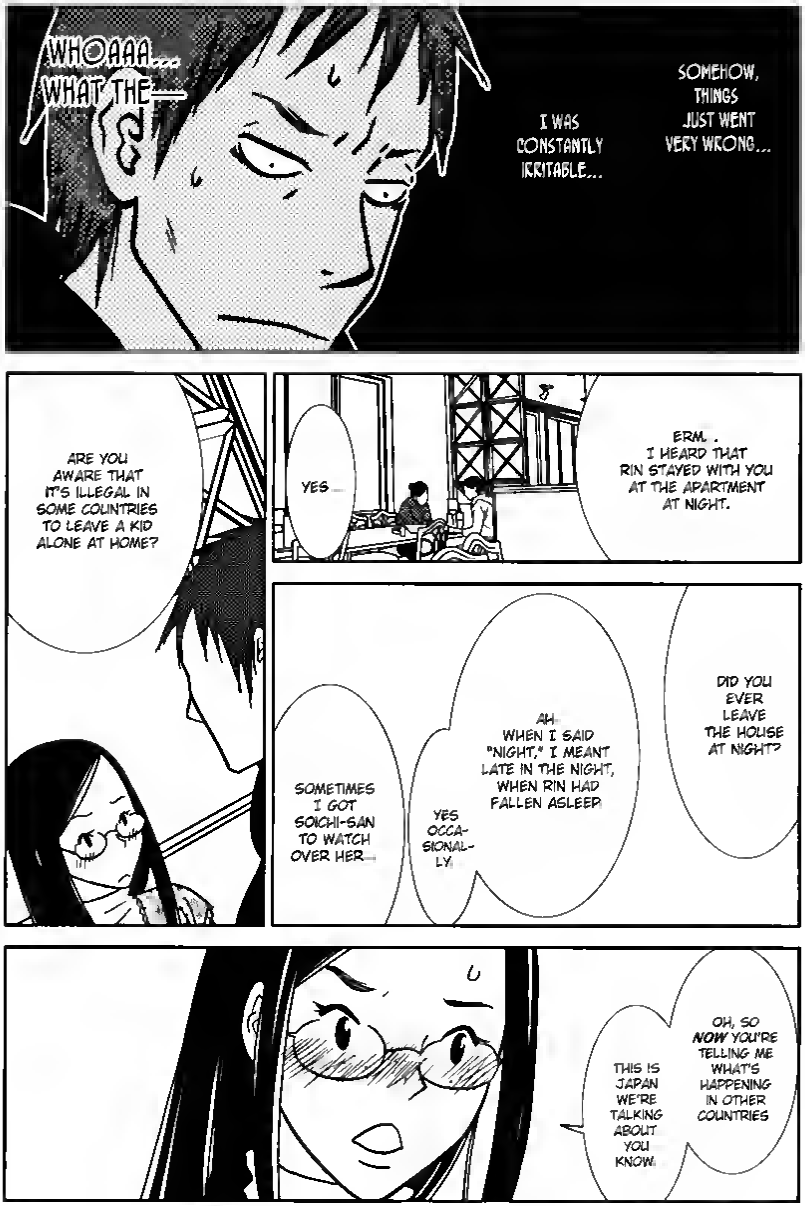
Shuraba = Jargon used by Mangakas that refers to the pre-deadline rush period.



AND I MADE UP MY MIND TO DISREGARD RIN AS MY DAUGHTER WHEN I WAS EXPECTING HER.
HOWEVER, I WAS INDEED SOICHI-SAN'S HELPER...
WELL...
YEAH. IT WAS BECAUSE OF... WORK.
WHEN YOU WERE EXPECTING HER?
I'M AFRAID I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING
I— I'M SORRY.

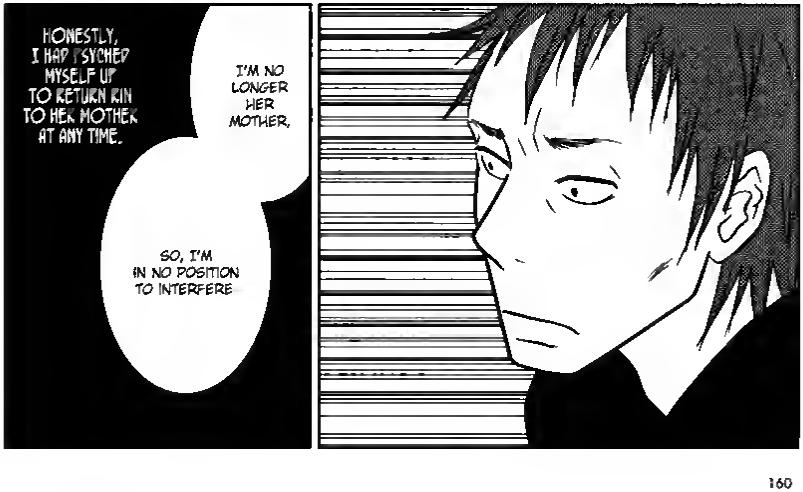
AND JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I HAD FINALLY LANDED MY BIG BREAK...
...I FOUND OUT THAT I WAS PREG-NANT.
"SELL"?
FOR A LONG TIME, I COULDN'T SELL...
I...
BUT, SOICHI-SAN ADVISED ME TO KEEP THE CHILD...
IT WASN'T SOMETHING I COULD HANDLE WHILE BRINGING UP A CHILD...
OH... SHE WAS REFERRING TO HER WORK...
MY DAYS WERE SPENT EITHER WORKING OR SLEEPING- I LOOKED LIKE A WHALE!.
AND I TOOK IT OUT ON HIM QUITE A BIT..
THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I EVEN RESENTED SOICHI-SAN FOR IT..
THAT PERIOD DURING THE PREG-NANCY WAS DIFFICULT...

DESPITE ALL THAT, TO MY SURPRISE...
...I WAS ABLE TO BRING MYSELF TO LOVE RIN WHEN SHE WAS BORN.
TO HER....
...SUR-PRISE...
...SHE SAID?
SO, EVEN AS I TOLD MYSELF I WASN'T HER MOTHER...
...I MADE UP MY MIND TO RECONCILE WORK AND FAMILY.
THAT'S SURE HOW IT LOOKED FROM THE MATERNAL AND HEALTH HANDBOOK...
BUT—
HOWEVER, SWITCHING TO DAY-MODE TURNED OUT TO BE CHAL-LENGING.
SOME OF MY APPOINTMENTS WERE SCHEDULED AT NIGHT, SO I HAD TO BE AWAKE...
IT WAS MOSTLY PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE....
WHAT...?

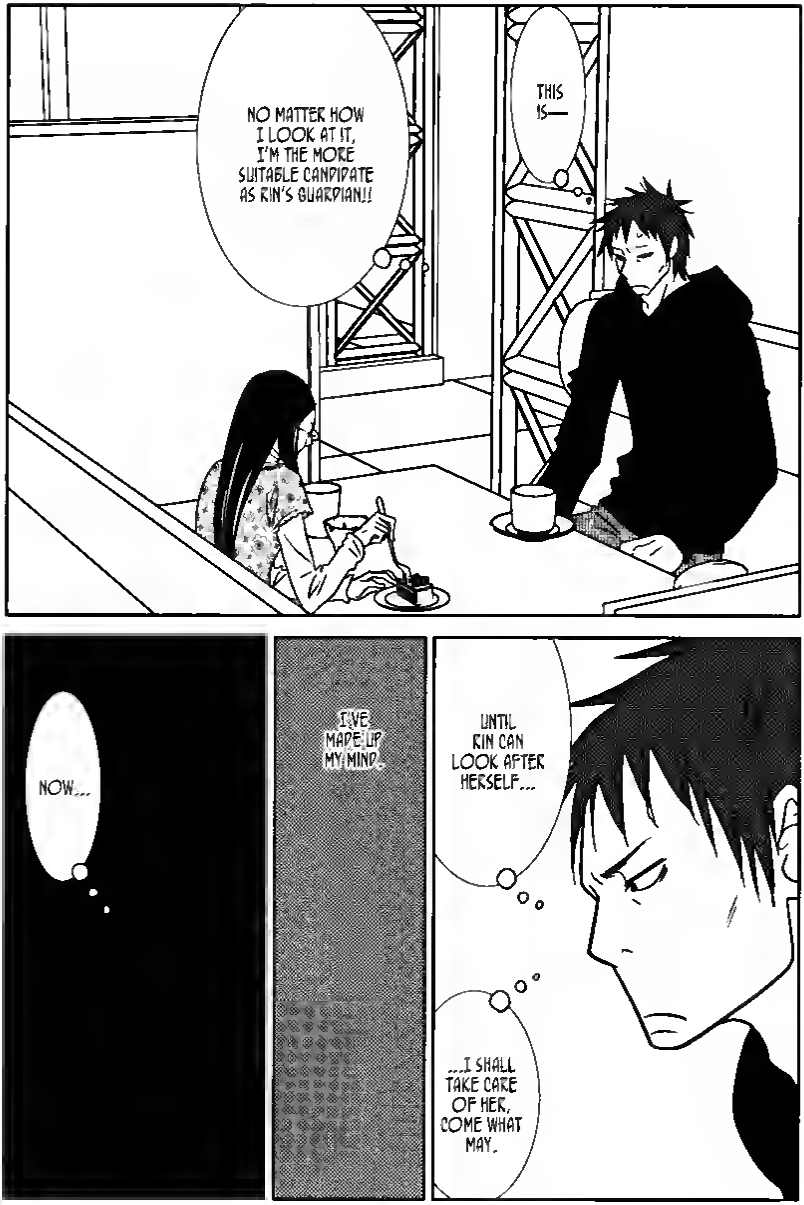

WHOAAA... WHAT THE—
I WAS CONSTANTLY IRRITABLE...
SOMEHOW, THINGS JUST WENT VERY WRONG...
ARE YOU AWARE THAT IT'S ILLEGAL IN SOME COUNTRIES TO LEAVE A KID ALONE AT HOME?
YES...
ERM. . I HEARD THAT RIN STAYED WITH YOU AT THE APARTMENT AT NIGHT.
SOMETIMES I GOT SOICHI-SAN TO WATCH OVER HER...
YES OCCA-SIONAL-LY.
AH. WHEN I SAID "NIGHT," I MEANT LATE IN THE NIGHT, WHEN RIN HAD FALLEN ASLEEP.
DID YOU EVER LEAVE THE HOUSE AT NIGHT?
THIS IS JAPAN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT YOU KNOW.
OH, SO *NOW* YOU'RE TELLING ME WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OTHER COUNTRIES

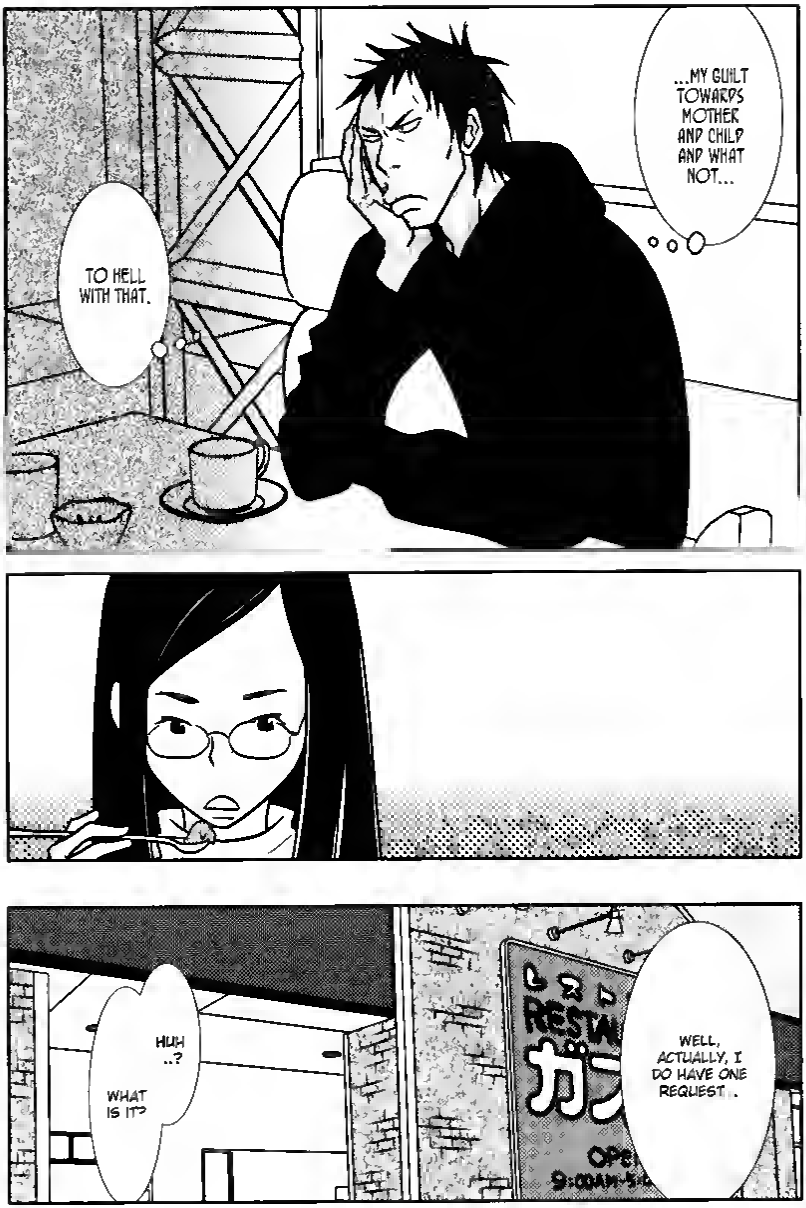
RIN FREQUENTLY WAKES UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
EVEN NOW.
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT WHAT'S LEGAL AND WHAT'S NOT
AND, ONE MORE THING.
THAT WAS WHY GRAMPS PROPOSED THE THREE OF YOU BECOME A FAMILY, WASN'T IT?
BUT
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO BRING HER UP ALONE THEN?
CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW SHE FEELS WHEN SHE FINDS NOBODY NEXT TO HER?

IF I CONTINUED LIVING WITH RIN THE WAY I DO NOW...
WOULDN'T THAT BE A PROBLEM FOR YOU?
NO...


I'M NO LONGER HER MOTHER.
SO, I'M IN NO POSITION TO INTERFERE.
HONESTLY, I HAD PSYCHED MYSELF UP TO RETURN RIN TO HER MOTHER AT ANY TIME.

IS IT APPROPRIATE TO LEAVE RIN IN THE CARE OF A THOUGHTLESS GUY LIKE ME?
WOULDN'T IT BE IN RIN'S BEST INTEREST FOR HER TO STAY WITH HER MOTHER?
THAT'S HOW I'VE ALWAYS FELT.
EVEN THOUGH RIN WAS ACTUALLY IN YOUR WOMB?
T-THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!!
...DO YOU FEEL ABOUT RIN NOW?
IS SHE IMPORTANT TO YOU, OR IS SHE NOT?
HOW IN THE WORLD...
SOMETIMES, I EVEN FEEL LIKE I'M A BABY SNATCHER.
AND YET...
I DON'T KNOW...
I—


NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, I'M THE MORE SUITABLE CANDIDATE AS RIN'S GUARDIAN!!
THIS IS—
UNTIL RIN CAN LOOK AFTER HERSELF...
...I SHALL TAKE CARE OF HER, COME WHAT MAY.
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.
NOW...

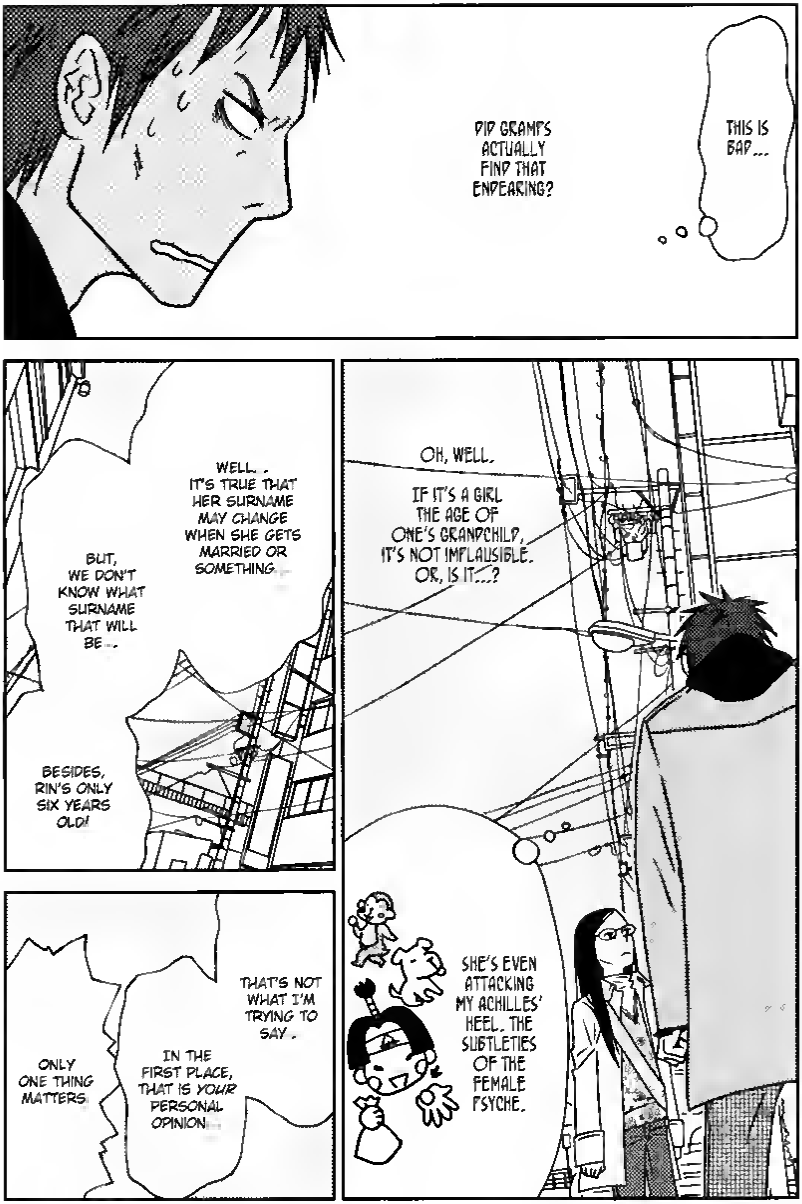

...MY GUILT TOWARDS MOTHER AND CHILD AND WHAT NOT...
TO HELL WITH THAT.
WELL, ACTUALLY, I DO HAVE ONE REQUEST.
HUH ..?
WHAT IS IT?

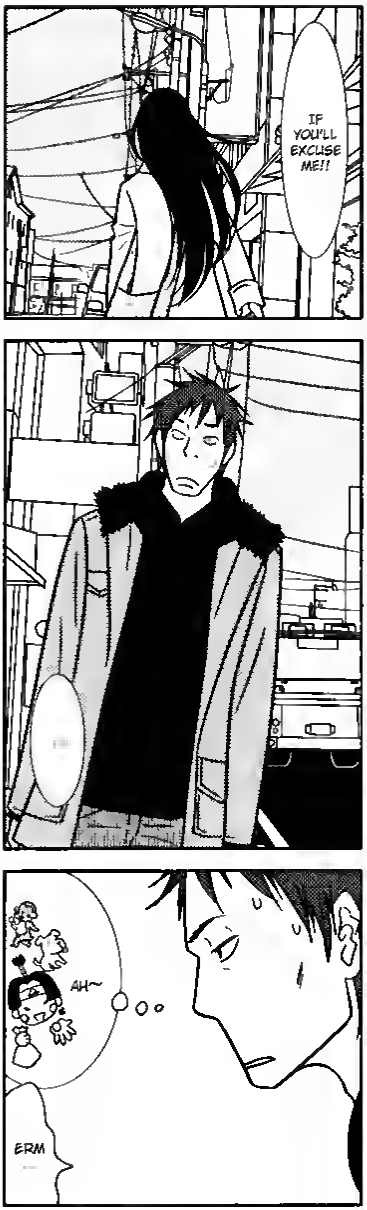
WHEN IT'S TIME FOR HER TO GO TO SCHOOL, PLEASE LET HER USE YOUR SURNAME.
IF SHE HAS A DIFFERENT SURNAME THAN HER GUARDIAN, SHE'LL SURELY BE SUBJECTED TO UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCES.
HUH?
MY SUR-NAME?

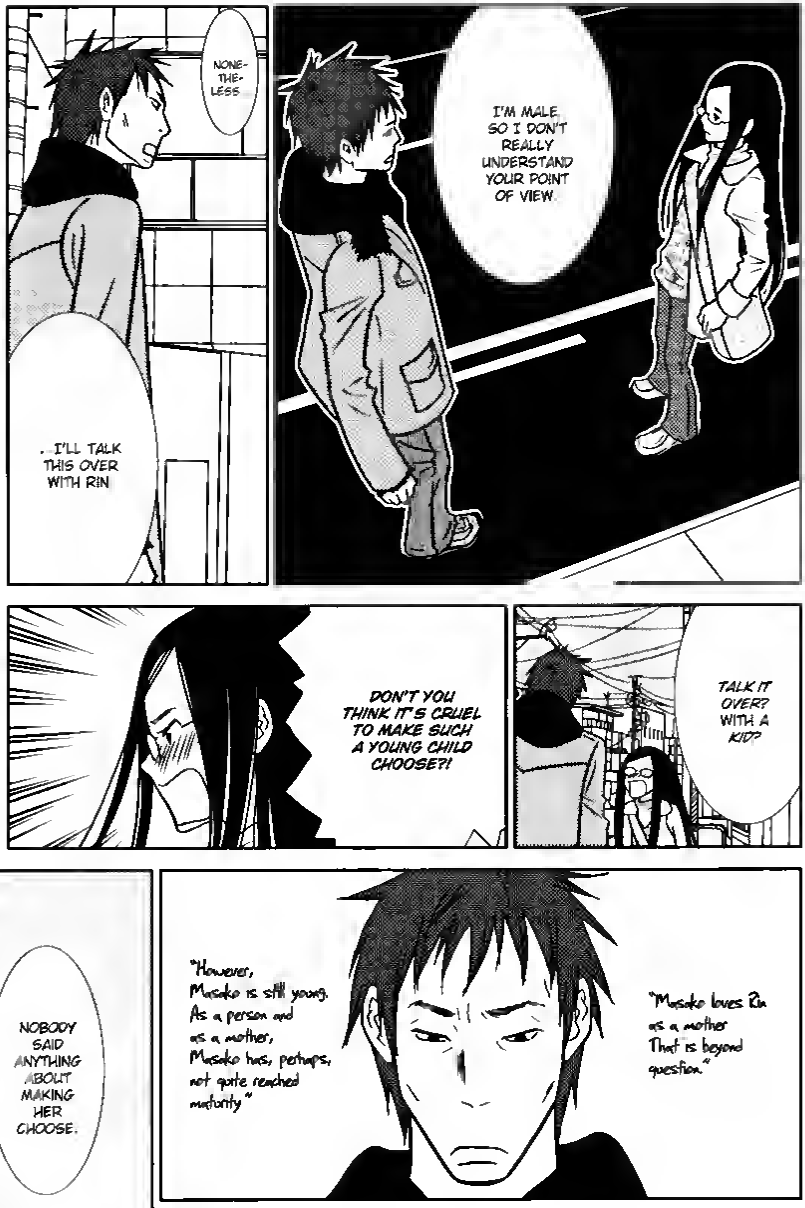
YET, JUST WHEN I THOUGHT SHE ISN'T READY FOR MOTHERHOOD, SHE SAYS THINGS BEFITTING A MOTHER WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE OTHERWISE OCCURRED TO ME.
SHE BEHAVES LIKE A CHILD, AND IS INCOHERENT,
AND KEPT ON EATING HER DESSERTS WHILE I WAS TELLING HER IMPORTANT THINGS...
COULD I HAVE YOUR WORD ON THAT?
THAT WEIRD COMBINATION JUST FEELS LIKE...
WELL...
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
RIN MIGHT BE CONFUSED BECAUSE OF THIS ABRUPTNESS...
ONE'S SURNAME IS NEVER THAT STRAIGHTFORWARD, YOU KNOW...
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN "KAGA RIN."
BUT... I CAN'T PROMISE ANYTHING RIGHT NOW...
...LIKE SOMETHING'S STUCK IN MY BUTT...

TN: Daikichi is unaccustomed to and bothered by the conflicting characteristics that Masako has shown. He struggles to find the right words to explain this feeling. The literal translation means something along the lines of "... like my butt is not sitting comfortably".

I HAVE NEITHER AFFECTION NOR ANY ATTACHMENT TO MY SURNAME.
I'M A WOMAN MYSELF.
IT'S SOMETHING THAT'LL CHANGE SOONER OR LATER ANYWAY.
...
I'M SURE SHE FEELS THE SAME WAY.
RIN IS ALSO A WOMAN.
HUH?


THIS IS BAD...
DID GRAMPS ACTUALLY FIND THAT ENDEARING?
WELL... IT'S TRUE THAT HER SURNAME MAY CHANGE WHEN SHE GETS MARRIED OR SOMETHING...
BUT, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT SURNAME THAT WILL BE...
BESIDES, RIN'S ONLY SIX YEARS OLD!
OH, WELL.
IF IT'S A GIRL THE AGE OF ONE'S GRANDCHILD, IT'S NOT IMPLAUSIBLE. OR, IS IT...?
SHE'S EVEN ATTACKING MY ACHILLES' HEEL. THE SUBTLETIES OF THE FEMALE PSYCHE.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY.
IN THE FIRST PLACE, THAT IS YOUR PERSONAL OPINION...
ONLY ONE THING MATTERS.


IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME!!
ERM
AH~
THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.
"RIN."
THE NAME CHOSEN BY SOUICHI-SAN,


NONE-THE-LESS
. I'LL TALK THIS OVER WITH RIN
I'M MALE, SO I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND YOUR POINT OF VIEW.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S CRUEL TO MAKE SUCH A YOUNG CHILD CHOOSE?!
TALK IT OVER? WITH A KID?
NOBODY SAID ANYTHING ABOUT MAKING HER CHOOSE.
"However, Mizuko is still young. As a person and as a mother, Mizuko has, perhaps, not quite reached maturity"
"Mizuko loves Rin as a mother That is beyond question."

A PARAGRAPH FROM GRAMPS' WILL KEEPS SPINNING ROUND AND ROUND IN MY HEAD.
IT SEEMS EVEN MORE CRUEL TO DECIDE WITHOUT CONSULTING HER
I'LL FIND OUT HOW RIN FEELS ABOUT THIS FIRST.
I'LL GET BACK TO YOU WITH OUR REPLY.
AND THEN, BOTH OF US WILL COME TO A DECISION TOGETHER

J-SIS PRESENTS

Yuru Drop ch. 11

Kotoba

Rinz

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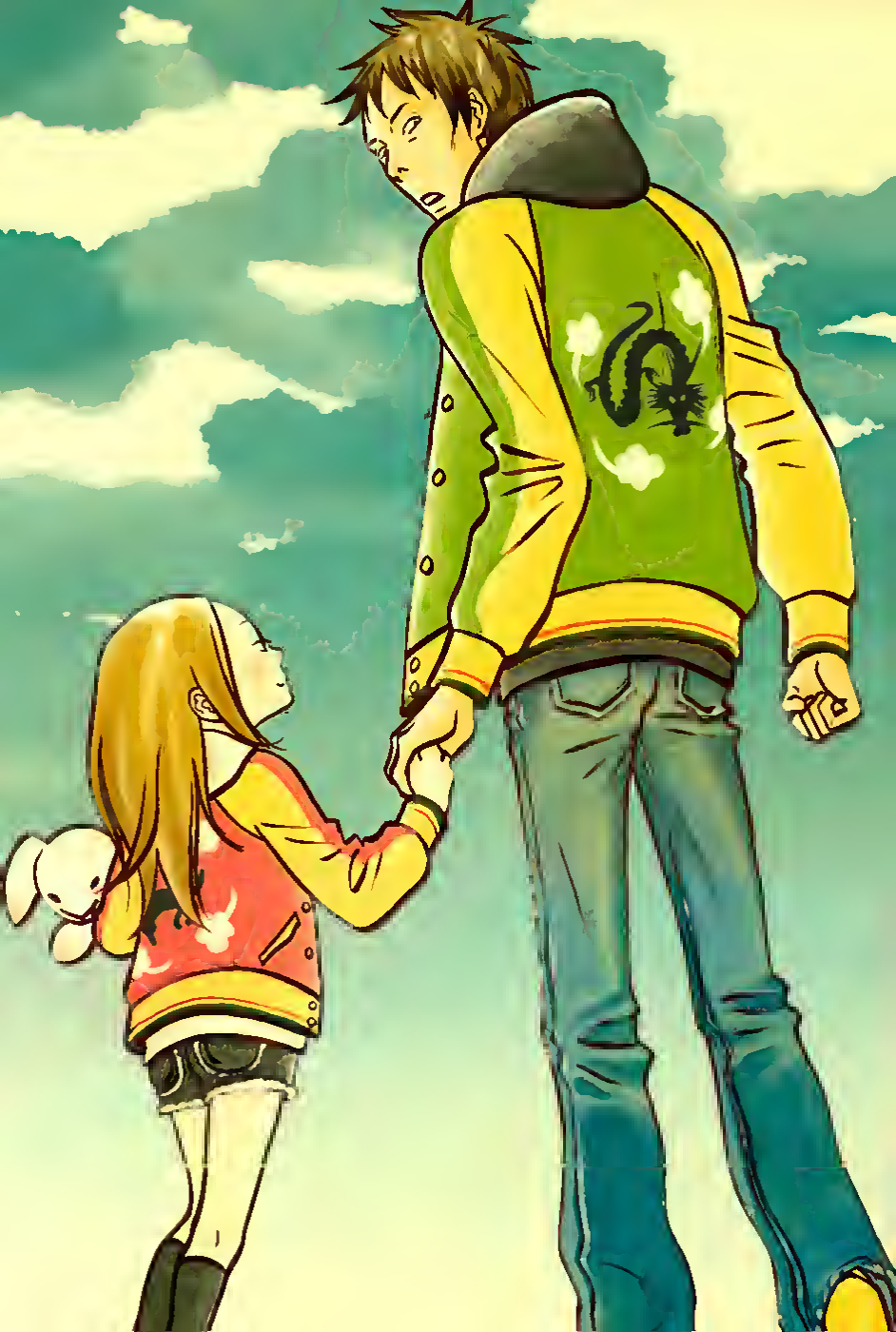
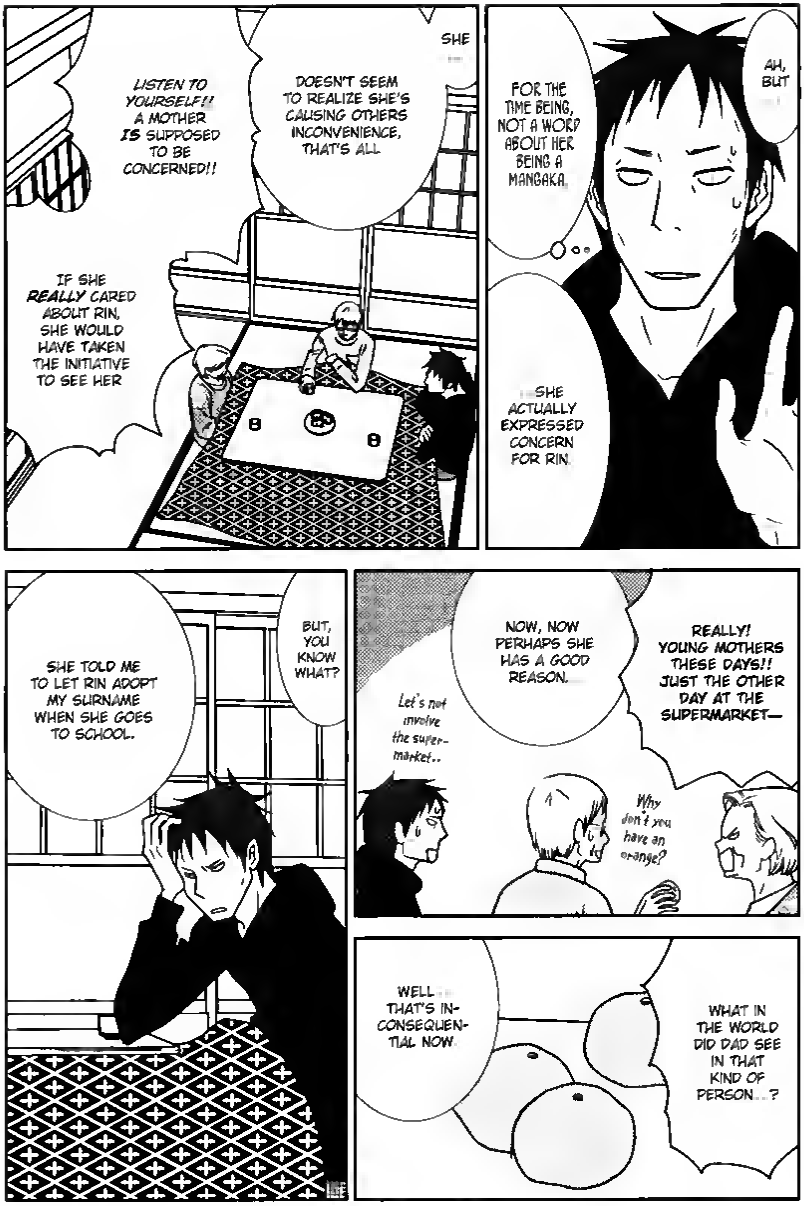


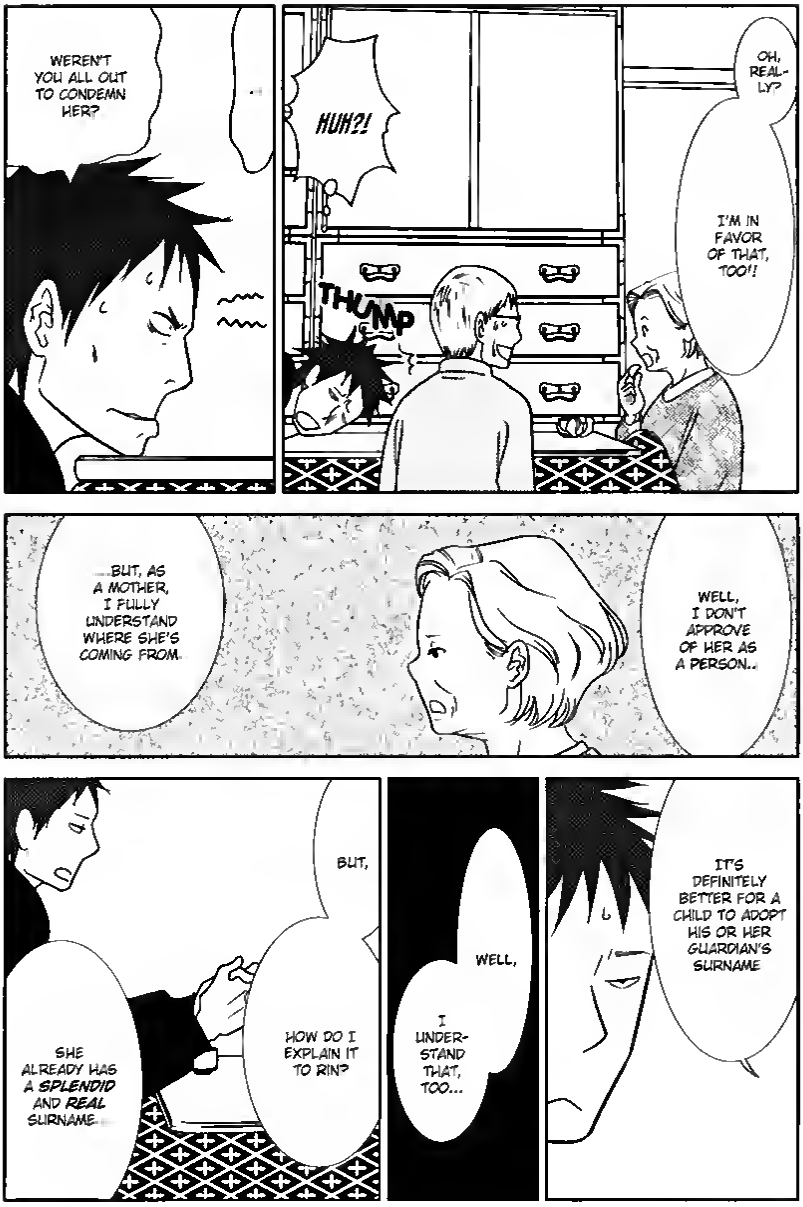
usagi drop
episode.12

usagi drop

IS SHE A DECENT PERSON?
SO, HOW DID IT GO WITH RIN'S MOTHER—?
DEPENDING ON YOUR DEFINITION OF *DECENT*, I BELIEVE THE ANSWER WOULD DIFFER
UHH— WELL—

DON'T TELL ME!! SHE'S GOOD-FOR-NOTHING, ISN'T SHE?
SHE SEEMS...
...IN-DECENT, YET DECENT...
NO...
IT'S JUST ... COMPLI-CATED.
I DON'T THINK SHE'S THAT HOPELESS...
PERHAPS SHE'S JUST A LITTLE ECCEN-TRIC...
!!
THAT MEANS SHE'S PROBABLY GOOD-FOR-NOTHING!!
I JUST KNOW IT!!
JUST THINK ABOUT IT. SHE ACTUALLY ABANDONED SUCH A LOVELY LITTLE GIRL...
REGARD-LESS OF HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, IT'S RIDI-CULOUS!

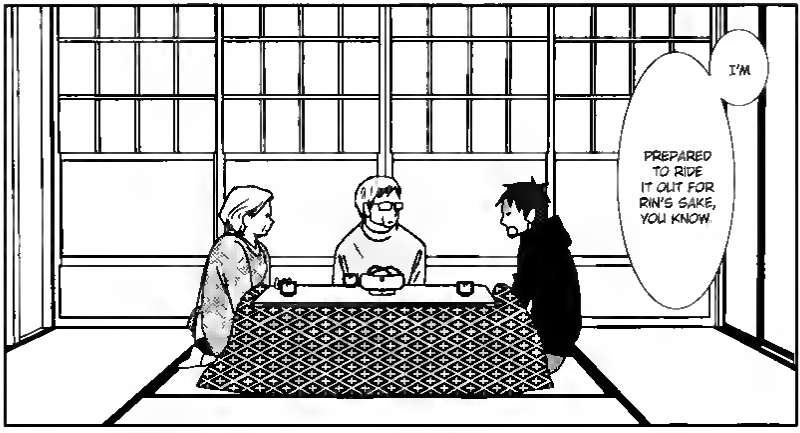

LISTEN TO YOURSELF!! A MOTHER IS SUPPOSED TO BE CONCERNED!!
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO REALIZE SHE'S CAUSING OTHERS INCONVENIENCE, THAT'S ALL.
IF SHE REALLY CARED ABOUT RIN, SHE WOULD HAVE TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO SEE HER
AH, BUT
FOR THE TIME BEING, NOT A WORD ABOUT HER BEING A MANGAKA.
SHE ACTUALLY EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR RIN.
SHE TOLD ME TO LET RIN ADOPT MY SURNAME WHEN SHE GOES TO SCHOOL.
BUT, YOU KNOW WHAT?
NOW, NOW PERHAPS SHE HAS A GOOD REASON.
REALLY! YOUNG MOTHERS THESE DAYS!! JUST THE OTHER DAY AT THE SUPERMARKET—
Let's not involve the supermarket..
Why don't you have an orange?
WELL... THAT'S INCONSEQUENTIAL NOW.
WHAT IN THE WORLD DID DAD SEE IN THAT KIND OF PERSON...?

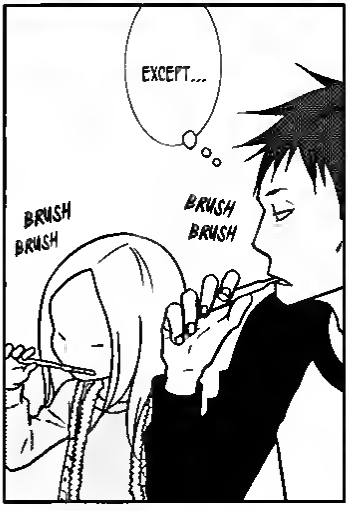

WEREN'T YOU ALL OUT TO CONDEMN HER?
HUH?!
THUMP
OH, REALLY?
I'M IN FAVOR OF THAT, TOO!!
...BUT, AS A MOTHER, I FULLY UNDERSTAND WHERE SHE'S COMING FROM.
WELL, I DON'T APPROVE OF HER AS A PERSON..
SHE ALREADY HAS A SPLENDID AND REAL SURNAME...
BUT,
HOW DO I EXPLAIN IT TO RIN?
WELL,
I UNDERSTAND THAT, TOO...
IT'S DEFINITELY BETTER FOR A CHILD TO ADOPT HIS OR HER GUARDIAN'S SURNAME

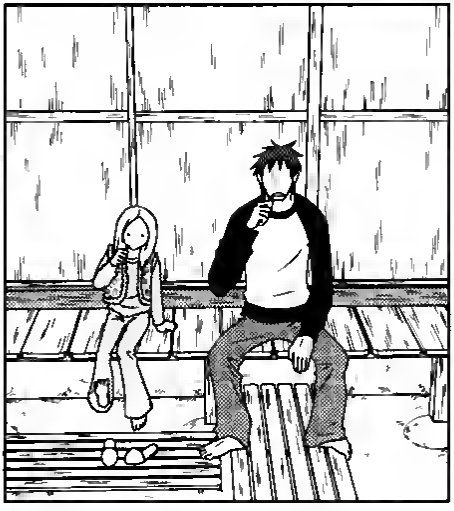
UGHHH! NOT YOU, TOOOO!!!
ME, "TOO"? WHAT'S WRONG?
What a weird child.
What's with this female mentality?
OH, WHY
SHE'LL HAVE TO FORGO HER SURNAME ANYWAY WHEN SHE GETS MARRIED.
IF SHE'S GOING TO BE HURT OR TAUNTED JUST BECAUSE OF HER SURNAME,
AS IF SHE'S GOING TO BE ABLE TO SKILLFULLY SWITCH BETWEEN THE TWO.
OTHERWISE, SHE'S GOING TO HAVE A HARD TIME IN SCHOOL, THAT'S FOR SURE.
IT'S BETTER FOR HER TO USE OUR SURNAME IN SCHOOL
THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS

IN THAT CASE, I'LL ADOPT RIN, THEN.
THAT IS, IF THAT KID ISN'T AGAINST IT...
THAT WAY, SHE'LL REALLY BE KAWAII RIN...
YEAH! THAT SEEMS MORE NATURAL...
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU CALLING "RECKLESS"?!
IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY, YOU KNOW!!
YOU...!!!
It's become an annoying habit of yours!!
WHY ARE YOU MAKING ANOTHER RECKLESS DECISION?!
WH—
HOW CAN IT NOT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?!
Now, now...
WHETHER IT'S NOW OR LATER, WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?!
SOMEBODY HAS TO MAKE A DECISION ANYWAY!!

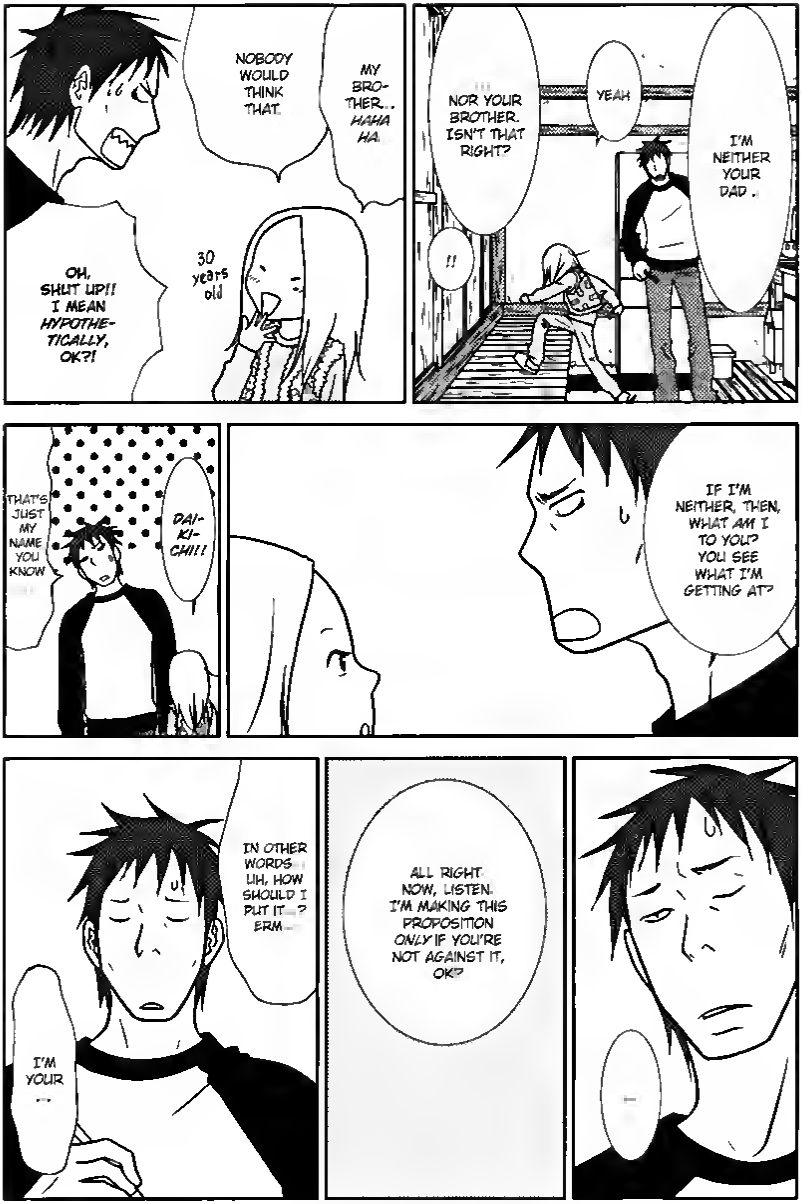
. THE ONUS IS ON ME TO BRING HER UP FROM NOW ON
IF RIN'S MOTHER HAS NO INTENTION OF TAKING HER IN—
I'M TELLING YOU, IT DOESN'T!!
IT DOESN'T!!
NO MATTER HOW THINGS TURN OUT, RIN WILL NEVER BE PASSED ON TO ANYBODY ELSE AGAIN
I MEAN, ISN'T THAT THE MOST UNTHINKABLE THING TO DO TO HER?

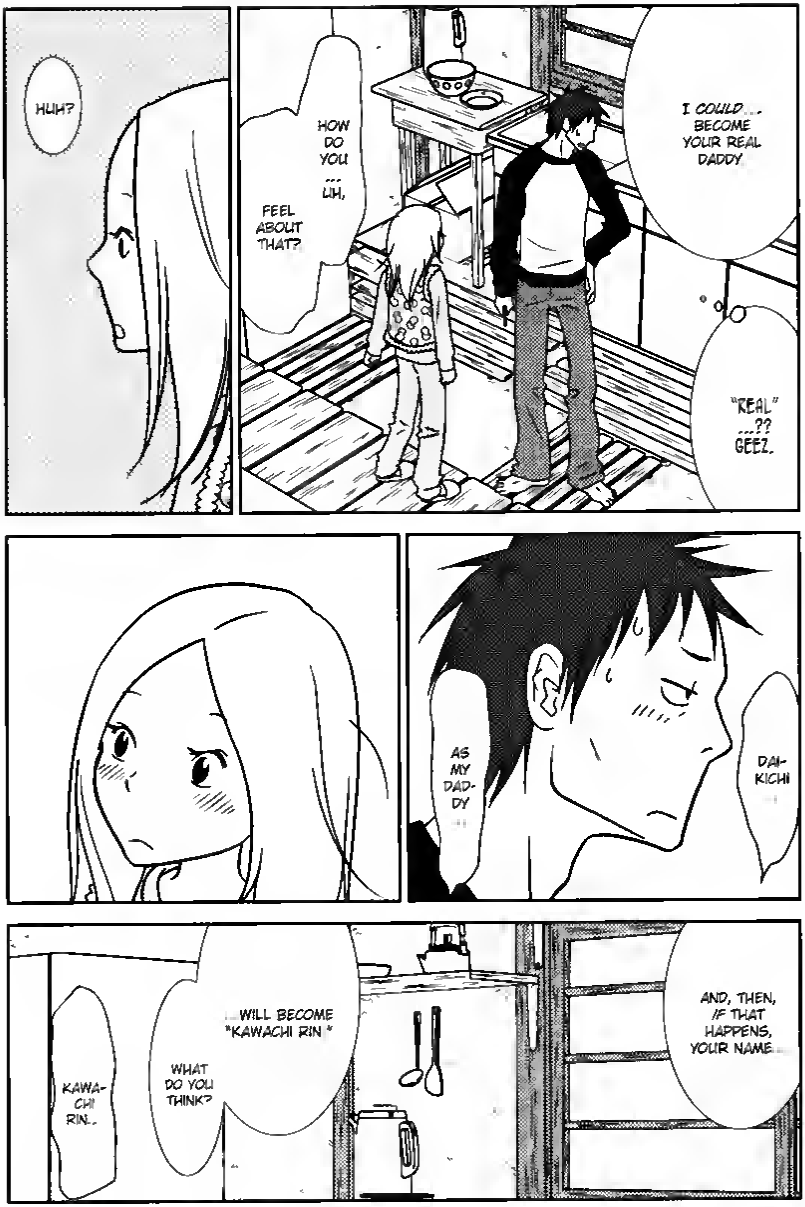

I'M PREPARED TO RIDE IT OUT FOR RIN'S SAKE, YOU KNOW.

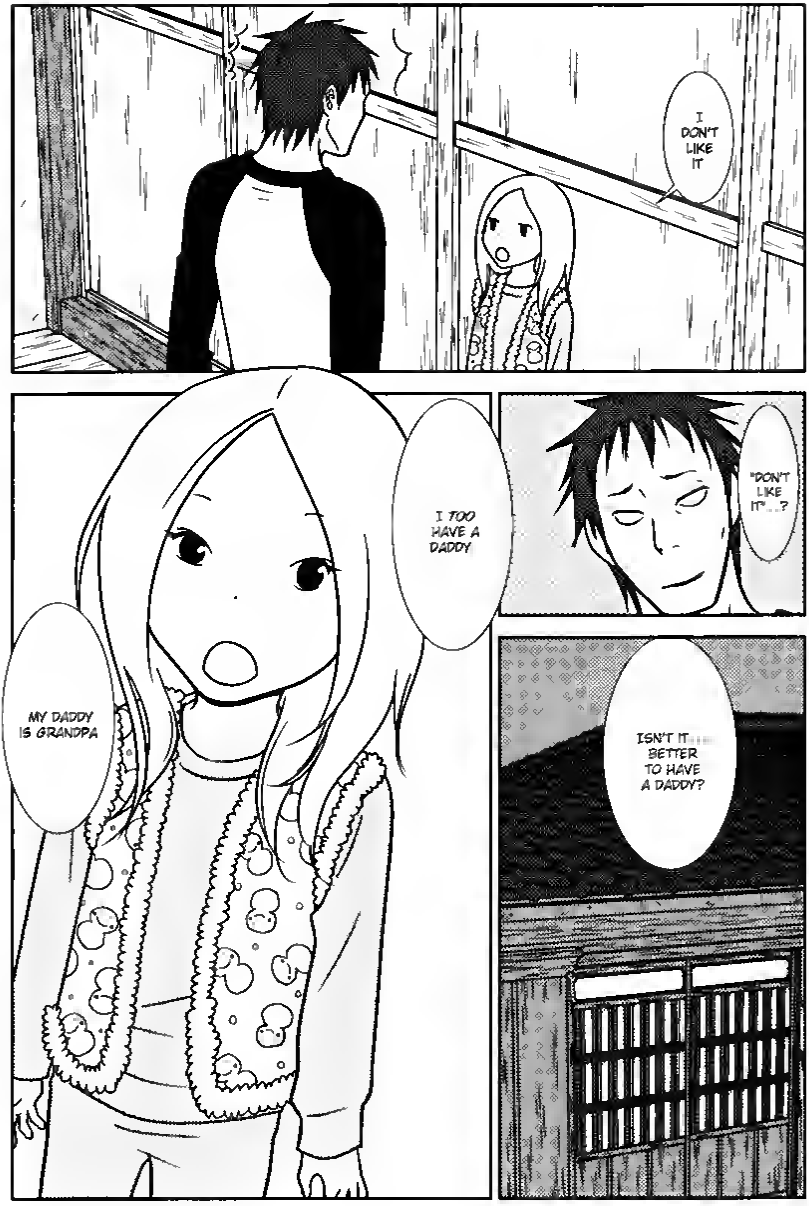

EXCEPT...
BRUSH BRUSH
BRUSH BRUSH

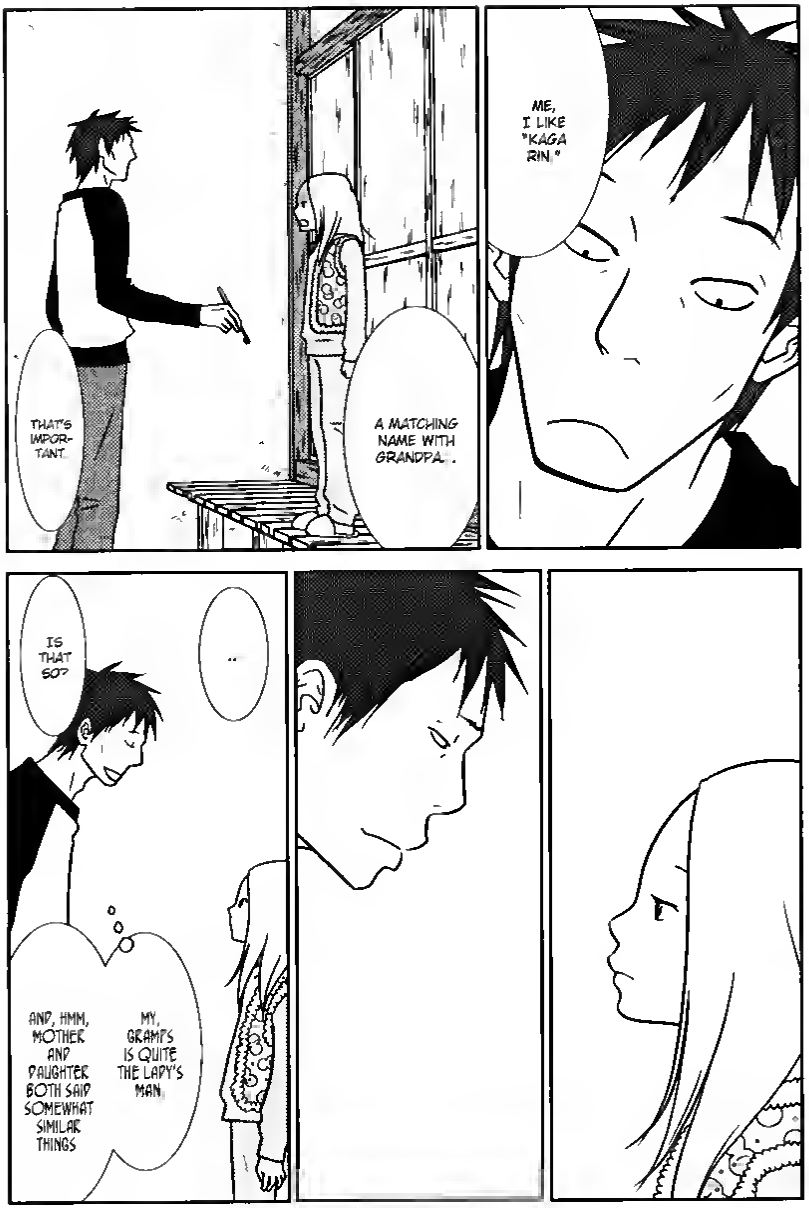


DAMN THIS IS TOO DELICATE.
GARGLE GARGLE
...THE THING IS, HOW DO I BRING IT UP TO HER?
...EVEN THOUGH I HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT BECOMING RIN'S DAD...
BRUSH
BRUSH
BRUSH
BRUSH
AH...
NO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT LIKE THIS
MUST I
MUST I GARGLE LIKE THAT TOO?
BUT, THIS ISN'T SOMETHING I SHOULD JOKE ABOUT, EITHER...
I DON'T WANT TO COME ACROSS AS ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY OR CONDESCENDING...
GARGLE GARGLE
PHOOEY
PHOOEY
PHOOEY
HEY, RIN...
UH..


NOBODY WOULD THINK THAT.
MY BRO-THER.. HAHA HA.
OH, SHUT UP!! I MEAN HYPOTHE-TICALLY, OK?!
30 years old
NOR YOUR BROTHER. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
YEAH
I'M NEITHER YOUR DAD.
!!
THAT'S JUST MY NAME YOU KNOW
DAI-KI-CHI!!
IF I'M NEITHER, THEN, WHAT AM I TO YOU? YOU SEE WHAT I'M GETTING AT?
IN OTHER WORDS... UH, HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...? ERM...
I'M YOUR...
ALL RIGHT. NOW, LISTEN. I'M MAKING THIS PROPOSITION ONLY IF YOU'RE NOT AGAINST IT, OK?
...

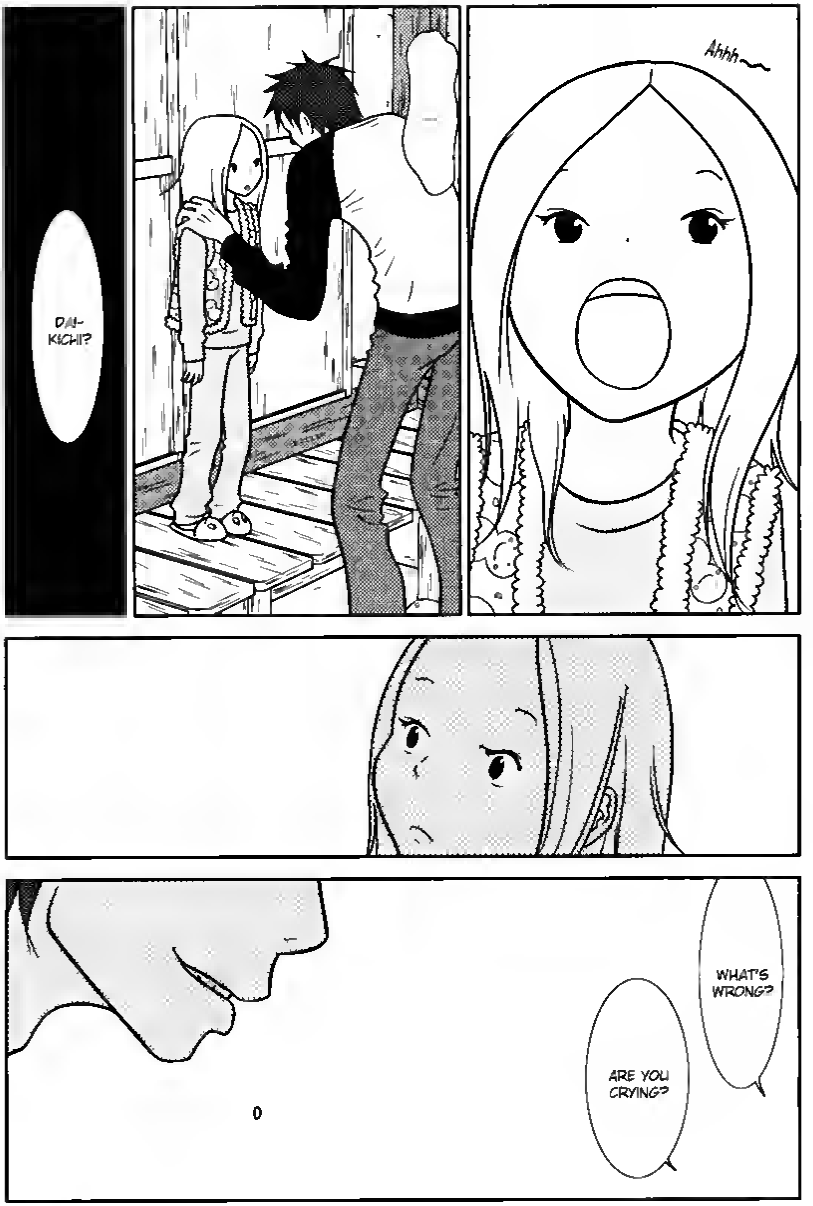

HUH?
HOW DO YOU ... UH, FEEL ABOUT THAT?
I COULD... BECOME YOUR REAL DADDY
"REAL" ...?? GEEZ.
DAI-KICHI
AS MY DAD-DY
AND, THEN, IF THAT HAPPENS, YOUR NAME...
...WILL BECOME "KAWACHI RIN"
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
KAWA-CHI RIN..


I DON'T LIKE IT
"DON'T LIKE IT"...?
I TOO HAVE A DADDY
MY DADDY IS GRANDPA
ISN'T IT... BETTER TO HAVE A DADDY?

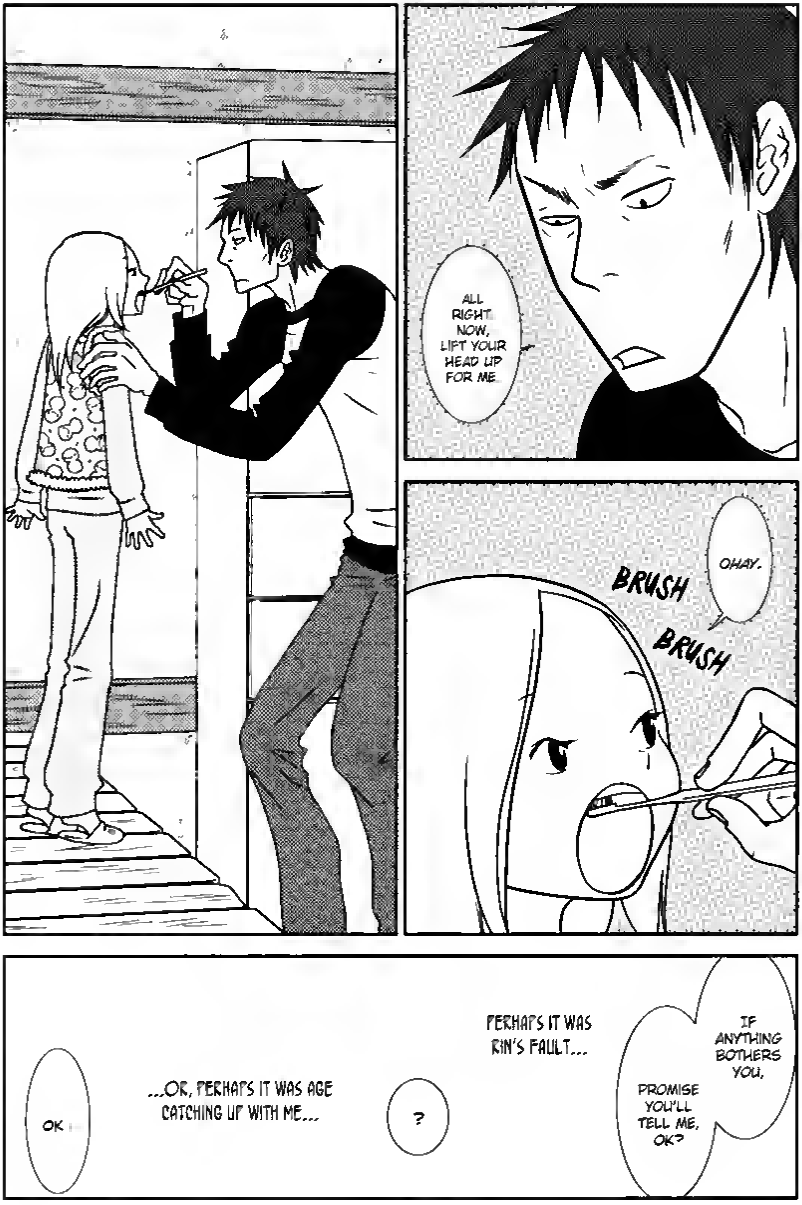

ME, I LIKE "KAGA RIN."
A MATCHING NAME WITH GRANDPA...
THAT'S IMPORTANT.
IS THAT SO?
...
MY, GRAMPS IS QUITE THE LADY'S MAN.
AND, HMM, MOTHER AND DAUGHTER BOTH SAID SOMEWHAT SIMILAR THINGS

DAIKICHI, I LIKE YOU JUST BEING MY DAIKICHI.

...

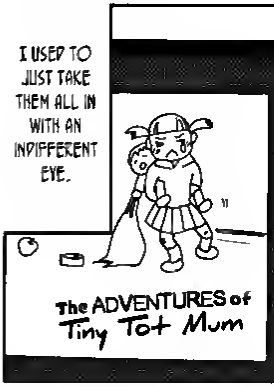

DAI-KICHI?
Ahhh~
WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU CRYING?
0

THIS IS SWEAT!!
BRUSH
BRUSH
Look who's talking...
BUT, IT'S ONLY MARCH...
BUT, I DID TOO!! IT'S BECAUSE YOU CRIED!!
NOW, QUIT GRIPING AND JUST OPEN YOUR MOUTH, WILL YOU?!
I SAID I WASN'T CRYING!!


ALL RIGHT. NOW, LIFT YOUR HEAD UP FOR ME.
OHAY.
BRUSH
BRUSH
IF ANYTHING BOTHERS YOU,
PROMISE YOU'LL TELL ME, OK?
PERHAPS IT WAS RIN'S FAULT...
?
...OR, PERHAPS IT WAS AGE CATCHING UP WITH ME...
OK

...BUT, I WAS, INDEED, MOVED TO TEARS.

I USED TO JUST TAKE THEM ALL IN WITH AN INDIFFERENT EYE.



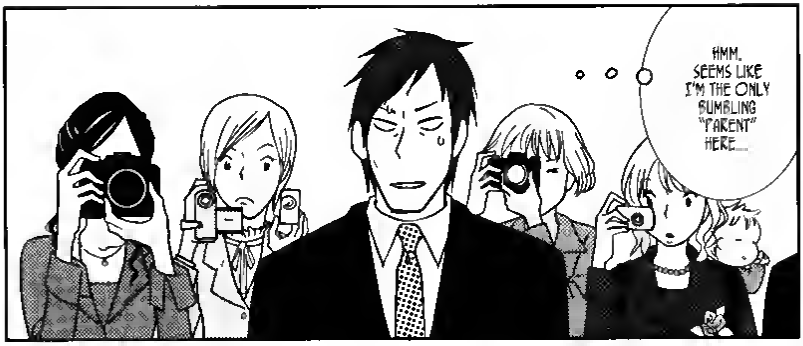
...OR, PROGRAMS WHERE LITTLE KIDS WOULD GET SENT ON ERRANDS...

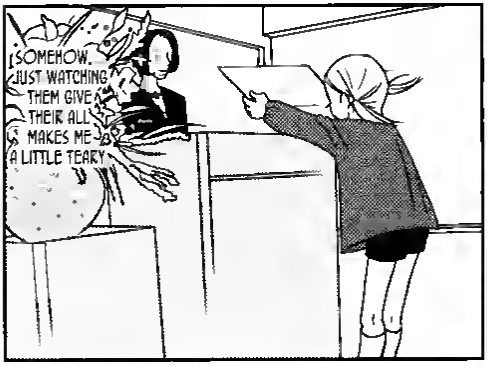
TV PROGRAMS THAT SHOWED BABY ANIMALS...

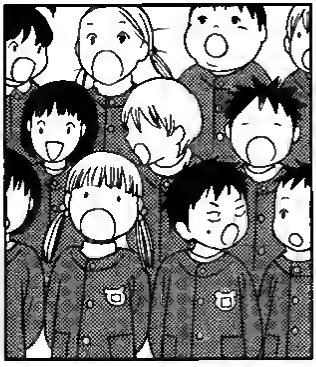
BUT, NOWADAYS, THINGS CAN GET A LITTLE TRICKY...

I FOR-GOT THE CAMERA...
OH, SHIT!
THIS IS HOPELESS...!! THIS FUZZY, TINY IMAGE WON'T DO!!
Let's give it a go.
GGGH

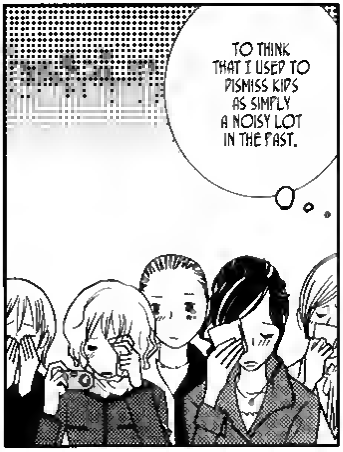
ASTONISHED
AH...
T-THANKS ...
JUST LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME!
W-WHAT AN IMPRESSIVE CAMERA...
and lens...
snap
snap

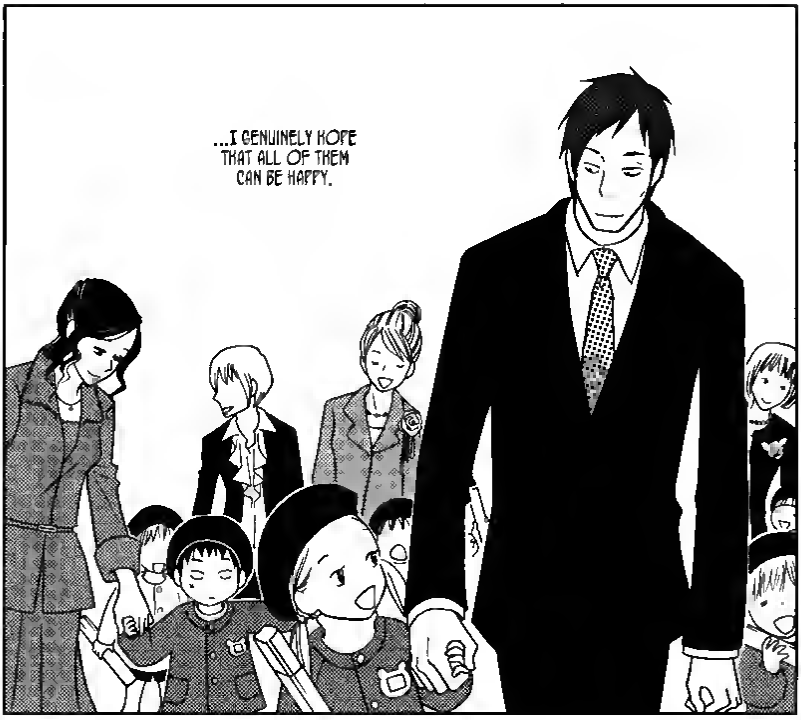

HMM. SEEMS LIKE I'M THE ONLY BUMBLING "PARENT" HERE...

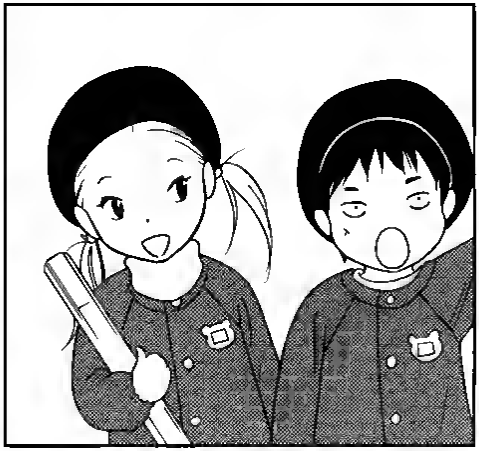

SOMEHOW, JUST WATCHING THEM GIVE THEIR ALL MAKES ME A LITTLE TEARY.

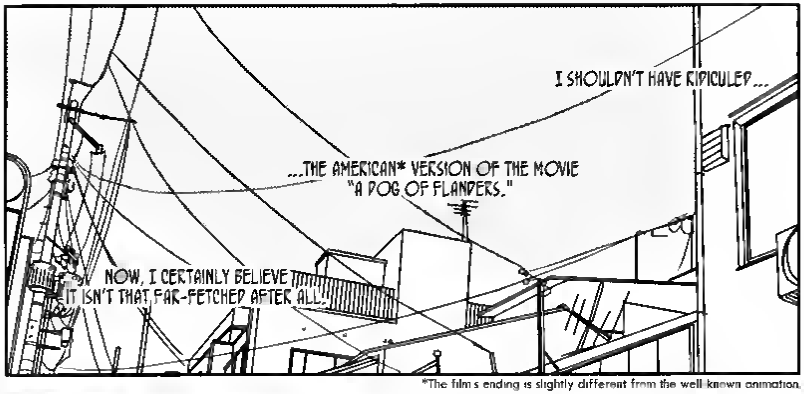


HOWEVER, EVEN THOUGH I STILL CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO FULLY EMBRACE THE NOTION THAT "ALL KIDS ARE ADORABLE"..


TO THINK THAT I USED TO DISMISS KIDS AS SIMPLY A NOISY LOT IN THE PAST.

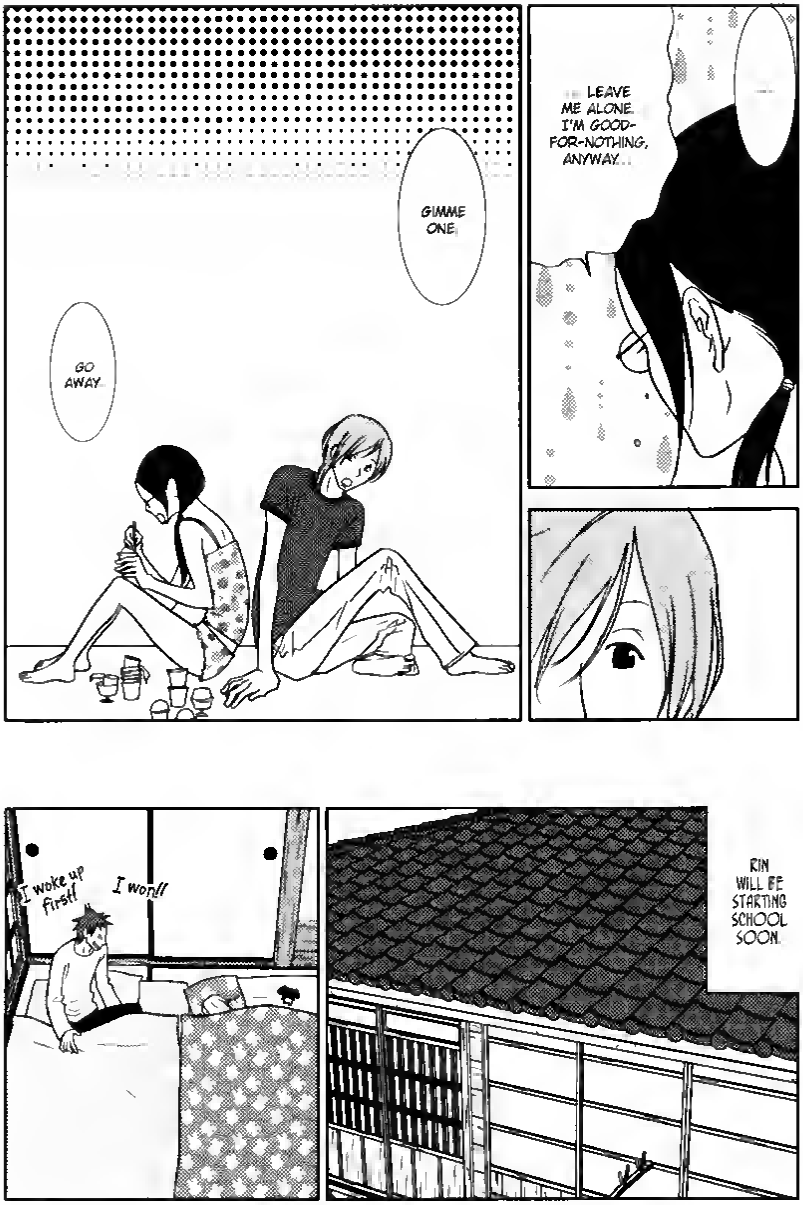

...I GENUINELY HOPE
THAT ALL OF THEM
CAN BE HAPPY.




I SHOULDN'T HAVE RIDICULED...
...THE AMERICAN* VERSION OF THE MOVIE "A DOG OF FLANDERS."
NOW, I CERTAINLY BELIEVE IT ISN'T THAT FAR-FETCHED AFTER ALL.

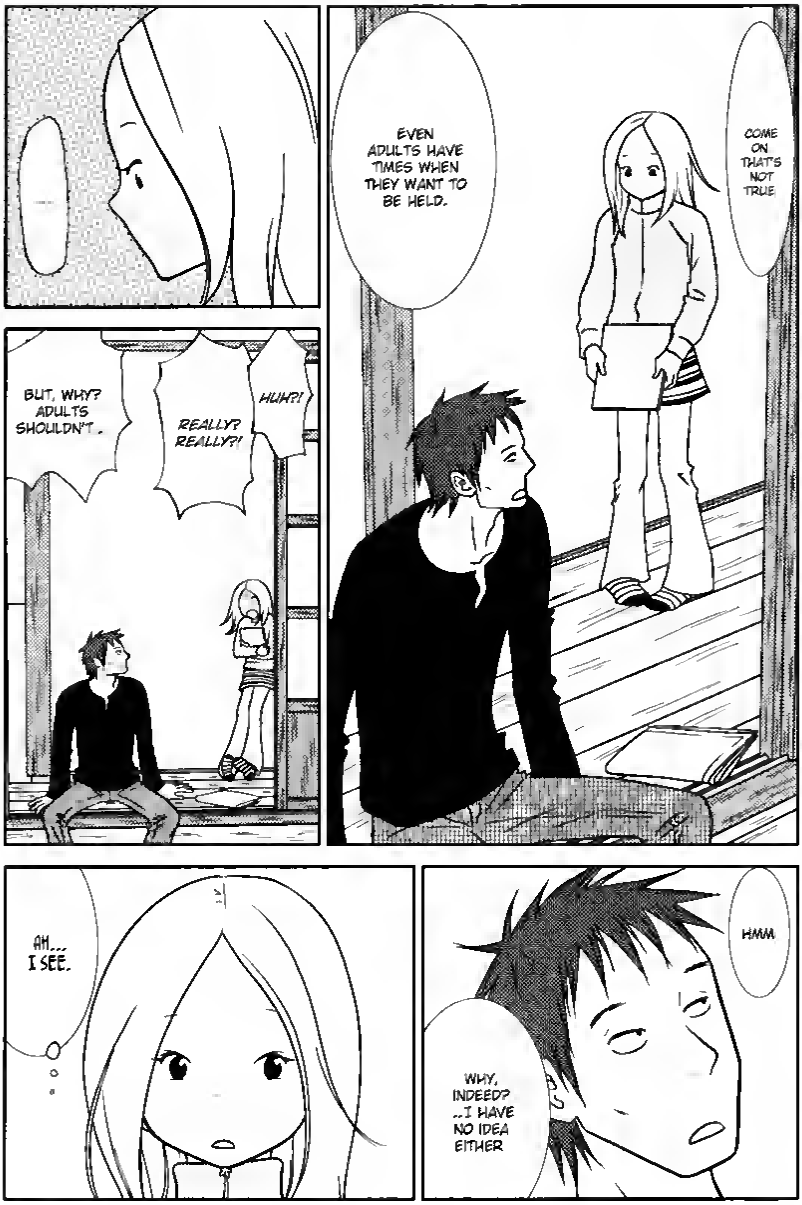
*The film's ending is slightly different from the well-known animation.

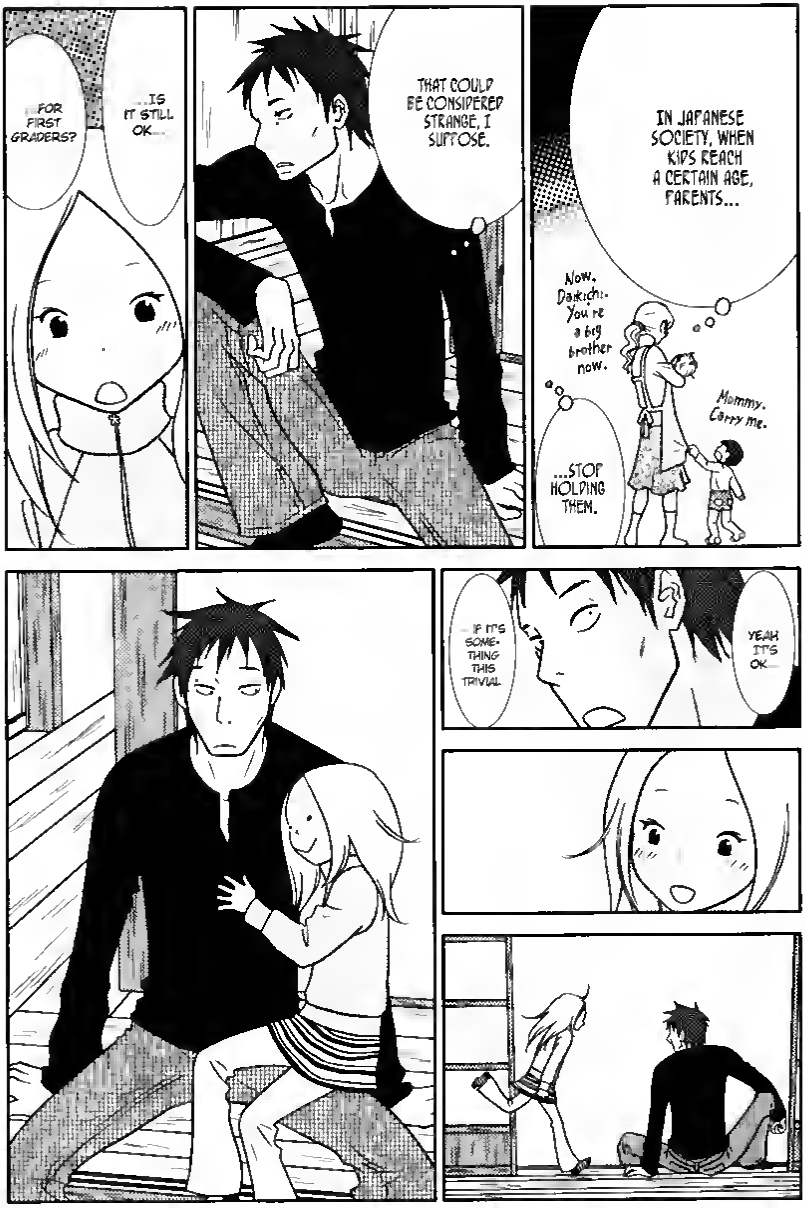
...MASAKO-SAN ONLY RESPONDED...
...WITH AN IMPASSIVE "I SEE".
UPON LEARNING RIN'S DECISION TO MAINTAIN STATUS QUO AND ATTEND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AS "KAGA RIN"...
MA-CHAN! YOU'VE EATEN MY CUSTARD PUDDING!!
ARRRGH!!
YOU HAVE A HABIT OF BINGING ON DESSERTS WHEN YOU'RE DOWN...
MA-CHAN DID SOMETHING HAPPEN AT WORK AGAIN?
YOU'RE GONNA PUT ON WEIGHT, Y'KNOW.
You're already 30

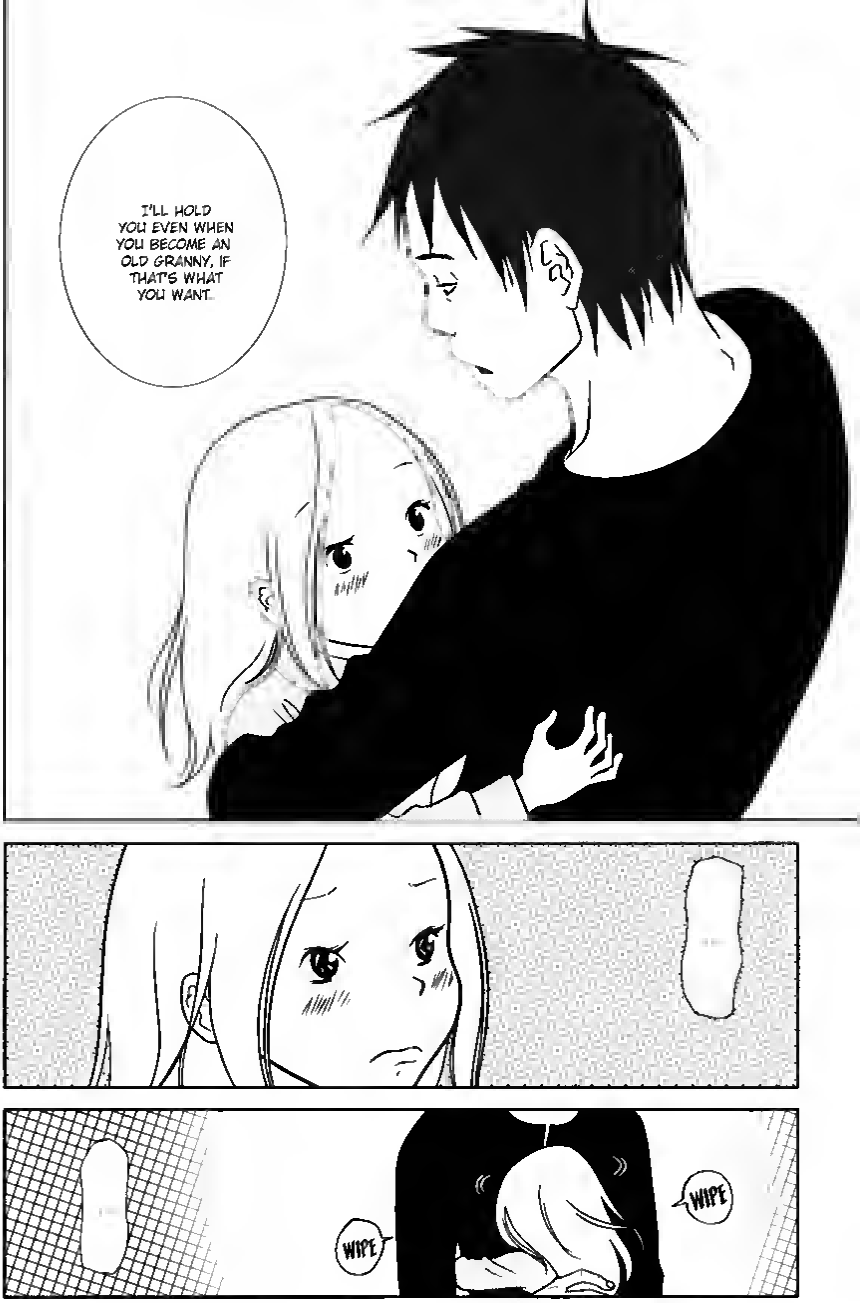

GIMME ONE.
GO AWAY.
...LEAVE ME ALONE. I'M GOOD-FOR-NOTHING, ANYWAY...
I woke up first!
I won!!
RIN WILL BE STARTING SCHOOL SOON.

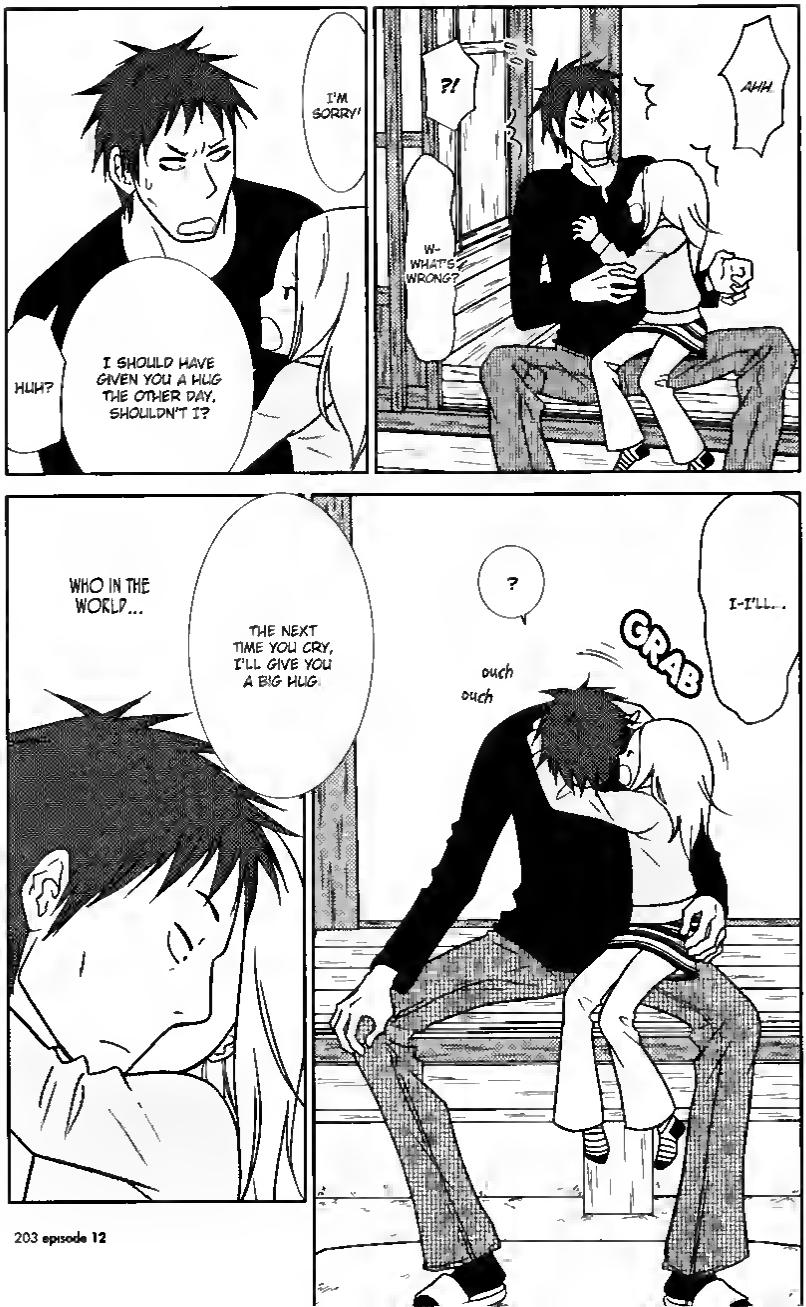
WHAT IS THIS? SOME SORT OF SELF-RESTRAINT?
But, she is sidled up right next to the edge of my bed.
AND ONCE AGAIN, SHE DIDN'T SNEAK UNDER MY SHEETS LAST NIGHT.
Yes.
Wanna sit here?

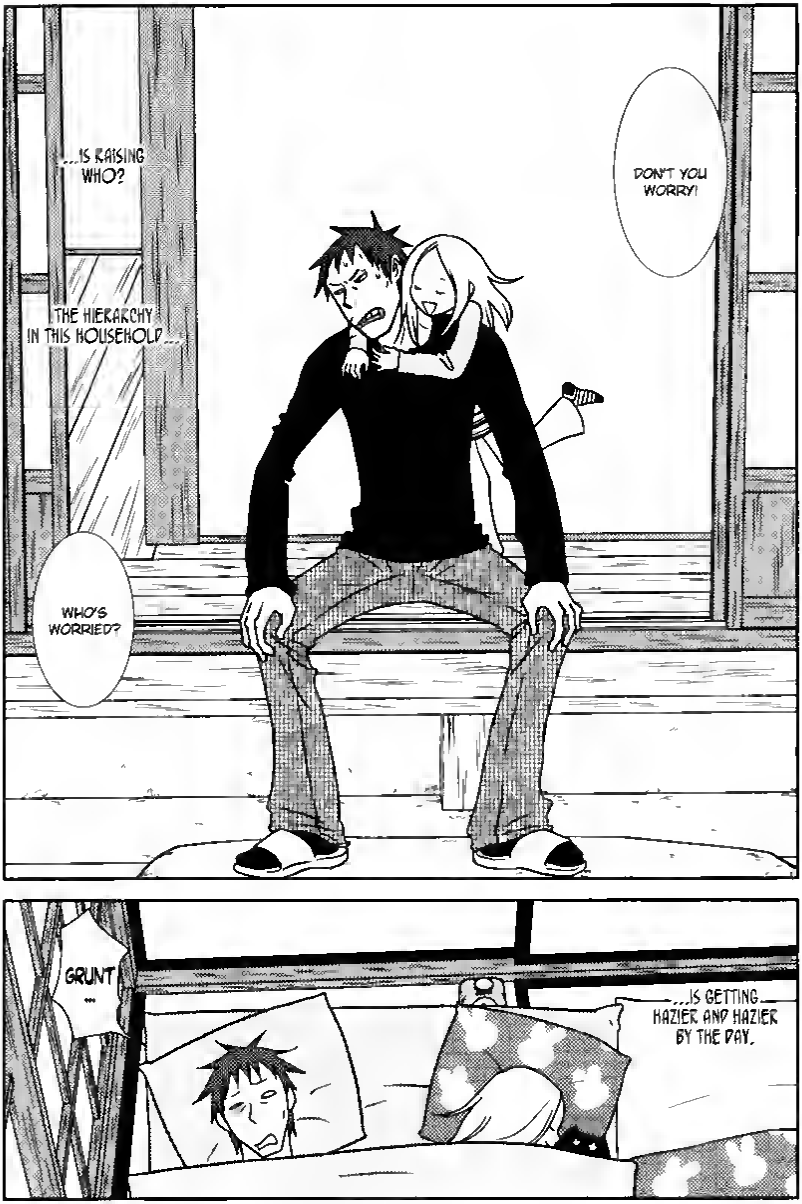
HEY! C'MON RIN!! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'LL READ OVER THERE!
I FORGOT NO HOLDING ME, EITHER
AH
HUUH?!
....HUH? WHY'S THAT?
HOLDING ME IS FORBIDDEN!
THAT'S BECAUSE I'M ALREADY A FIRST GRADER!
IT SEEMS IT'S NOT EASY BEING A FIRST GRADER EITHER.
THAT'S WHAT ALL MY FRIENDS ARE SAYING
HOLDING IS FOR BABIES ONLY
I SEE...
SO, IT'S THAT KIND OF SELF-RESTRAINT...

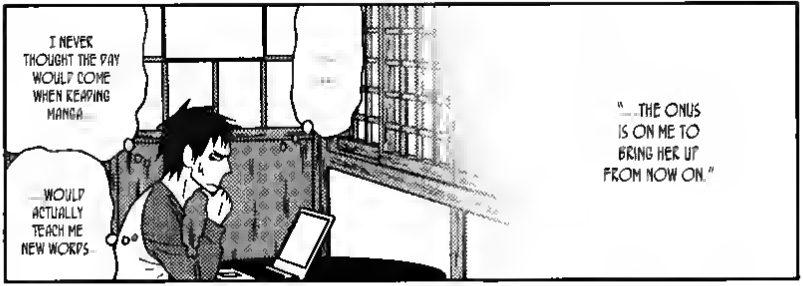

COME ON THAT'S NOT TRUE
EVEN ADULTS HAVE TIMES WHEN THEY WANT TO BE HELD.
HUH?!
REALLY? REALLY?!
BUT, WHY? ADULTS SHOULDN'T.
HMM
WHY, INDEED? ..I HAVE NO IDEA EITHER
AH... I SEE.


...FOR FIRST GRADERS?
...IS IT STILL OK...
THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED STRANGE, I SUPPOSE.
IN JAPANESE SOCIETY, WHEN KIDS REACH A CERTAIN AGE, PARENTS...
Now, Daikichi. You're a big brother now.
Mommy. Carry me.
...STOP HOLDING THEM.
...IF IT'S SOMETHING THIS TRIVIAL
YEAH IT'S OK...


I'LL HOLD YOU EVEN WHEN YOU BECOME AN OLD GRANNY, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.
...
...
WIPE
WIPE


I'M SORRY!
HUH?
I SHOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU A HUG THE OTHER DAY, SHOULDN'T I?
?!
AHH
W-WHAT'S WRONG?
WHO IN THE WORLD...
THE NEXT TIME YOU CRY, I'LL GIVE YOU A BIG HUG.
?
ouch ouch
GRAB
I-I'LL..


...IS RAISING WHO?
THE HIERARCHY IN THIS HOUSEHOLD...
DON'T YOU WORRY!
WHO'S WORRIED?
GRUNT ...
...IS GETTING HAZIER AND HAZIER BY THE DAY.


I NEVER THOUGHT THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN READING MANGA...
...WOULD ACTUALLY TEACH ME NEW WORDS.
"...THE ONUS IS ON ME TO BRING HER UP FROM NOW ON."

phanzanu in merriam-webster.com

usagi drop J-SIS

to be continued...

J-SIS Presents

Drop ch. 12

Kotobe

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